BC**PROGRESS**BOARD

BUILDING ON OUR PROGRESS — STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

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BC**PROGRESS**BOARD

Executive Summary

The BC Progress Board has two mandates:

- Benchmarking BC's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- Providing strategic advice to the Premier and government on measures to improve BC's economic performance and its social policy supports.

The Board reports in detail on **eighty-three** indicators and provides supplementary comparisons or analysis on topics of interest to explain data issues and provide further relevant information and commentary. The foundation of the Board's reporting consists of six core targets related to two overall goals for British Columbia. Twenty-six additional inter-provincial performance indicators, eleven province-state metrics, and nine international comparisons shed further light on BC's overall economic and social performance. On a regional basis, eighteen performance indicators provide an overview of urban-regional performance. These comparisons are supplemented by inter-regional comparisons where data permits.

Taken together with the investigative topic boxes, these comparisons provide the most comprehensive effort available benchmarking BC's economic and social performance externally (relative to other jurisdictions) and internally (urban versus rural and inter-regionally) on key outcome performance indicators.

Economy, Innovation and Education

In 2001, the Progress Board recommended that British Columbia work towards two overarching goals, with the first goal being: *Make BC a Leader in Economy, Innovation and Education in Canada by 2010*. To anchor this objective, the Board reports BC's progress on three core target measures: economic growth, standard of living and jobs.

- **Economic Growth**: Target 1st or 2nd among the provinces in the growth of real GDP per capita by 2010. In 2005, BC ranked second for the annual growth of real GDP per capita; revised data show BC earned the same rank in 2004, up from BC's fourth ranked performance in 2003. BC ranked fourth for the level of real GDP per capita in 2005. Over the ten-year period 1996-2005, BC was tenth in the country for annual average improvement on this basic performance measure. In addition to being above the national average growth rate of real GDP per capita since 2002, BC achieved the economic growth target in 2004 and 2005.
- **Standard of Living**: Target 1st or 2nd among the provinces for the level of real personal disposable income per capita by 2010. In 2005, BC held onto its third place rank among the ten provinces for the level of real personal disposable income per capita. BC ranked ninth for ten-year (1996-2005) improvement in this core target, up from tenth in last year's benchmarking report.
- **Jobs**: Target 1st or 2nd for the employment rate by 2010. In 2005, BC ranked fifth for the employment rate (age 15-64) among Canadian provinces, unchanged from its 2004 rank but an improvement from sixth place rank in 2003. BC's ten-year progress rank (1996-2005) remained in tenth place among the provinces, despite robust job growth in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

The report contains thirteen additional performance indicators that provide further information on BC's inter-provincial economic performance; note that the most recent year of data and the relevant rank are provided in brackets. Seven registered strong performance, ranking between first and third among the provinces:

- real average hourly wages (2005, ranked from the perspective of workers, 2nd);
- taxpayer supported debt (2005/06, 2nd);
- top personal marginal income tax rate (2006, 2nd);
- provincial deficit/surplus (2005/06, 2nd);
- net interprovincial migration (2005/06, 2nd);
- business gross fixed capital formation (2005, 3rd); and,
- university completion for those aged 25-54, (2005, 2nd).

Four performance indicators registered middling performance (ranked between fourth and seventh):

- productivity (2005, 5th);
- per capita tax burden (2005/06, 6th);
- research and development spending as a percent of GDP (2004, 4th); and,
- employment in natural and applied sciences (2005, 4th).

Two indicators registered in the weak category (i.e., ranked between eighth and tenth):

- total exports per capita (2005, 8th); and,
- secondary school graduates (2004, 8th).

This year's report includes several supplementary topic boxes on ***economy, innovation and education***:

- ***Canada's Infrastructure Debt and Deficit*** – The infrastructure gap is a pressing issue that must be addressed in the coming years if Canada wishes to preserve its competitiveness. In addition to being an important economic driver, infrastructure is also an essential component in preserving the quality of life for the public. An infrastructure deficit results when expenditures do not keep up with what is required to meet expected needs. The accumulation of such annual deficits has resulted in an 'infrastructure debt', the backlog of unmet construction and maintenance needs.
- ***Historical Comparison of Core Targets 1 through 3*** – Data from 1971 through 2005 for the first three Core Targets – economic growth, standard of living, and jobs – highlight that BC's performance on growth in real GDP per capita and real personal disposable income per capita deteriorated in the 1980s, and was especially weak in the 1990s. BC's performance has been especially weak relative to the national average on these two core indicators, though importantly BC has been ahead of the national average for growth in real GDP per capita since 2002 and BC's real PDI grew faster than the national average in 2004 and 2005. While BC experienced a long period of structural decline there is improvement in recent years. The last time BC was ahead of the national average on both of these important indicators prior to 2005 was 1987.
- ***The BC/Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA)*** – TILMA is aimed at dismantling persistent inter-provincial barriers to trade, including overlapping regulations and policy misalignment, and further integrating the increasingly interrelated economies of BC and Alberta. It will commence April 2007 with a transition period to April 2009.
- ***Interprovincial Migration Projection*** – Statistics Canada recently updated its population projection for Canada, the provinces and the territories. The new report presents the results of six population projection scenarios from 2005 through 2031 for the provinces and territories and up to 2056 for Canada. Projections are based on assumptions that take into account the most recent trends relating to components of population growth, particularly:

fertility; mortality; immigration; emigration; and, interprovincial migration. Of these components, interprovincial migration is the most volatile factor in population projections and with the projected decline in natural increase, migration will become a more important factor in population growth for several provinces.

- ***R&D in British Columbia*** – Research and development (R&D) leads to innovation and ultimately productivity improvements and economic growth. Research and development spending in BC has long lagged behind Ontario and Quebec in both absolute and relative terms. Several factors help explain BC's historical underperformance, including: a reliance on natural resources; a large service sector; an underdeveloped venture capital market; clusters of activity outside of BC; low investment levels; and, taxation.

Environment, Health and Society

The second overarching goal is: *Make BC a leader in Canada on Environment, Health and Society in Canada by 2010*. To anchor this objective, the Progress Board's report includes three specific targets:

- **Environmental Quality**: Target 1st among the provinces for environmental quality by 2010. BC's first place overall rank in 2004 on the Board's environmental quality index, which averages provincial performance on urban air quality, greenhouse gas emissions per capita, and protected areas, remains unchanged since the first Progress Board report. Data limitations continue to prevent ten-year progress reporting.
- **Health Outcomes**: Target 1st among the provinces for health outcomes by 2010. In 2003, BC ranked first among the provinces based on an average of its performance rankings for life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, infant mortality and potential years of life lost, unchanged from its first place position in 2002 and 2001.
- **Social Condition**: Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for social condition by 2010. In 2004, BC ranked ninth in social condition based on an average of its performance rankings for the percent of families and unattached individuals with income below the after-tax low income cut-off (LICO), the low birth weight rate, the personal and property crime rate, the percent of the population on income assistance, and the percent of total unemployment designated as long-term.

There are thirteen additional indicators used to measure BC's performance on ***environment, health and society***; note the most recent year of data and the relevant rank are provided in brackets. Eight of the performance indicators registered strong performance, ranking between first and third among the provinces:

- greenhouse gas emissions per capita (2004, 2nd);
- protected areas (2003, 1st);
- life expectancy at birth (2004/05, 1st);
- cancer mortality (2003, 1st);
- cardiovascular disease mortality (2003, 2nd);
- infant mortality (2003, 2nd);
- potential years of life lost (2003, 2nd), and,
- income assistance (2004, 2nd).

Two indicators registered in the middling category (i.e., ranked between fourth and seventh)

- air quality (2004, 5th); and,

- low birth weight rate (2004, 5th).

Three indicators registered in the weak category (i.e., ranked between eighth and tenth):

- low income cut-offs (2004, 10th);
- personal and property crime rate (2005, 9th); and,
- long-term unemployment (2005, 9th).

This year's report also contains a number of special topic boxes related to ***environment, health and society***. Brief highlights follow:

- ***Climate Change*** – The economic costs of mitigating human-induced climate change are high and concentrated in the short term, while possible benefits occur in the long-run and are diffused over both time and physical area. Adaptation, in the context of climate change, refers to activities that minimize the negative impacts of climate change or encourage the development of new opportunities that may arise in the changed environment.
- ***Health Insurance Coverage by Country*** – In 2003, The public share of total health spending in Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries ranged from a low of 44 percent in the US to a high of 90 percent in the Czech Republic. Canada, at 70 percent came in just below the OECD average of 72 percent. Canada and France tied for third and fourth highest private insurance spending at 13 percent. An additional 15 percent of health spending in Canada came from out-of-pocket payments. Canada and Switzerland are the only countries where private coverage is restricted to services not covered by the public system.

Supplemental US Comparisons

The Progress Board has continued its supplemental comparisons of BC performance relative to the states of Washington, Oregon and California and the provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, where there is comparable cross-jurisdictional data. The most recent year of data and the relevant rank are provided in brackets in the following list.

On eight indicators of ***economy, innovation and education,*** none placed in the strong category (i.e., first or second place). For five indicators, BC placed in the middling category (rank between three and five):

- economic growth (real GDP per capita, 2005, 3rd);
- jobs (employment to population ratio, 2005, 5th);
- per capita tax burden (2003/04, 5th);
- top marginal personal income tax rate (2006, 3rd); and,
- net inter-provincial (state) migration (2005, 4th).

BC registered weak performance (sixth or seventh rank) on three indicators:

- standard of living (real personal disposable income per capita, 2005, 6th);
- surplus/(deficit) (2003/04, 6th); and,
- research and development spending as a percent of GDP (2003, 6th).

Turning to supplemental US comparison measures for ***environment, health and society,*** comparable data are available for three indicators. The most recent year of data and the relevant rank are in brackets. British Columbia placed in the strong category for:

- urban air quality (2004, 1st); and,
- the low birth weight rate (2004, 1st).

British Columbia placed in the weak performance category for personal and property crime (2005, 7th).

Supplemental North American Comparisons

Supplementing the US State and Key Competitors comparison, are further indicators using all sixty-one sub-national jurisdictions in North America, i.e., the Canadian provinces, the 50 US states and the District of Columbia. Comparisons are presented for three core targets and four performance indicators. The classification categories range from first place to twentieth for strong, twenty-first to fortieth for middling and forty-first to sixty-first for weak.

British Columbia had a strong rank for the low birth weight infant rate (5th, 2004).

British Columbia had middling ranks for:

- economic growth (28th, 2005);
- employment rate (40th, 2005);
- net inter-provincial (state) migration (28th, 2005); and,
- research and development as a percent of GDP (39th, 2003).

British Columbia earned weak designations for two indicators:

- real personal disposable income per capita (54th, 2005); and,
- personal and property crime rate (60th, 2005).

Supplemental International Comparisons

This year's report continues to include supplemental international indicators benchmarking BC against the 30 member nations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Similar to US supplemental comparisons, the Progress Board has benchmarked BC where comparable data are available. The most recent year of data and the relevant rank are in brackets.

For ***economy, innovation and education,*** BC's performance is strong on two indicators:

- economic growth (real GDP per capita, 2004, 9th); and,
- jobs (employment to population ratio for the working age population, 2005, 9th).

BC's performance is middling on the other three:

- international exports of goods and services (2004, 18th);
- gross fixed capital formation (2005, 12th); and,
- R&D as a percent of GDP (2004, 19th).

For ***environment, health and society,*** BC placed strong on three performance indicators:

- life expectancy at birth (2004, 4th);
- low birth weight rate (1995 - 2004 average, 8th); and,
- long-term unemployment (2004, 3rd).

BC's performance for greenhouse gas emissions was weak in an OECD context (2003, 21st).

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I. Benchmarking British Columbia

Introduction

This is the sixth annual report under the benchmarking mandate of the BC Progress Board. Established in July 2001 and comprised of 18 British Columbians with a broad range of experience, the Progress Board has two mandates:

- To provide advice on whether and to what extent the province is improving its competitive position and quality of life by establishing an ongoing means to measure and benchmark British Columbia's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- To identify issues of importance to the province's future economic prosperity and advise the Premier on strategies, policies and actions necessary to increase the economic and social well-being of British Columbians.

The benchmarking work of the BC Progress Board is the most comprehensive review available of the state of BC's economy, innovation, education, environment, health and society performance.

The 2006 Reporting Framework

The BC Progress Board's Benchmarking Report for 2006 is split into two volumes to highlight both BC's ***internal*** and ***external*** performance.

The first volume contains the bulk of our reporting and is entitled "External Performance Review," presenting inter-provincial, US state and international comparisons.

The second volume is an expanded look within British Columbia and is entitled the "Internal Performance Review," comparing the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the Victoria CMA, the Abbotsford CMA and Regional British Columbia. Also included are supplemental inter-regional comparisons based on BC's eight Development Regions and five Health Authorities.

New in the 2006 Reporting Framework

The health and society indexes presented in this edition differ slightly from the ones introduced in the 2005 Benchmarking Report. The index previously used data from the same year irrespective of the availability of newer information. The indexes now use the most recent year of data for each component.

In This Volume

"Volume I: External Performance Review – Interprovincial and International" contains the "core" competitive benchmarking work of the BC Progress Board. This volume, our flagship publication, reports progress on our 2010 benchmarks to restore BC to a leadership position within Canada. The interprovincial Core Target and Performance Indicator comparisons are supplemented by a critical assessment of BC's performance relative to key U.S. competitors and member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as a host of Topic Boxes highlighting issues associated with our core benchmarking. These Supplemental Indicators and Topic Boxes allow us to add considerable flexibility to our work while maintaining a consistent "go forward" reporting structure.

The following descriptive icons appear on the comparisons in this Report:

Core Target Indicator
Performance Indicator
State – Provincial Comparison
International Comparison

Reaching our Potential: North Star 2010

The BC Progress Board is now in its sixth annual reporting cycle.

The Board continues to believe that British Columbia has the natural and human endowments to become a leader in Canada by 2010. We also believe that BC has the necessary attributes to be a leader when judged against its key competing jurisdictions, and that the province is also well placed to eventually become a global leader. For this reason, the Board has continued the task of benchmarking BC's fortunes relative to key member nations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development where there are comparable data available.

The Progress Board maintains two overarching goals for BC as it navigates toward a "North Star" leadership position in 2010. These goals are:

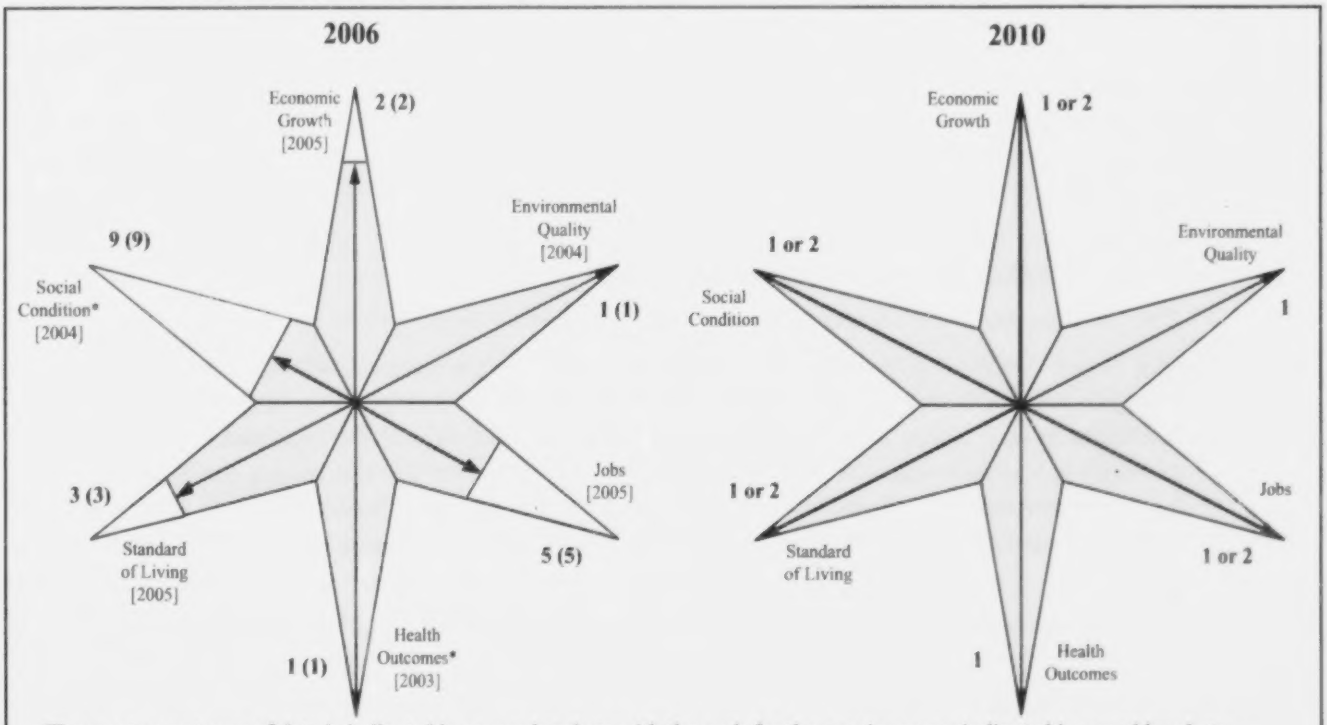
- Make BC a leader in Canada for economy, innovation and education by 2010; and,
- Make BC a leader in Canada on environment, health and society by 2010.

Expressing the first goal – economy, innovation and education – in terms of BC navigating towards its "North Star 2010" (i.e. attaining a leadership position within Canada), BC should rank 1st or 2nd on economic growth (annual growth of real GDP per capita), standard of living (after-tax income, or level of real personal disposable income per capita), and jobs (employment to population ratio, ages 15-64).

Turning to the second goal – environment, health and society – BC should rank 1st for environmental quality, 1st for health outcomes and 1st or 2nd for social condition. These benchmarks – particularly for economy, innovation and education – remain stretch objectives for BC, but the Progress Board believes they are achievable.

British Columbia ranked 2nd in 2005 for economic growth, 3rd for standard of living, 5th on jobs, 1st on environmental quality, 1st on health outcomes, and tied for 9th on social condition. British Columbia's economic performance relative to the rest of the country has shown general improvement between the first annual benchmarking report and this – the sixth – annual report. Relative to the rest of Canada, British Columbia is strong for environmental and health outcomes, economic growth (real GDP per capita) and overall standard of living (after-tax income). British Columbia's performance on the jobs measure (the employment rate) is middling, while the province ranks weak on social condition. The latest North Star rankings for BC are indicated in the shaded areas of the 2006 star outlined below.

North Star - BC in 2006 and 2010



The most recent year of data is indicated in square brackets with the rank for the previous year indicated in round brackets.
Note: *Presented as an index starting in 2005. See the main body of the report for full details.

Current Results: External Performance Review

The Board reports on six core targets related to two overall goals for British Columbia. Twenty-six additional performance indicators, and a number of supplemental indicators and topic boxes shed further light on BC's economic and social performance, and some of the steps necessary to reach the Progress Board's 2010 North Star leadership benchmarks. The report also contains an extensive array of international and supplemental benchmarking and special topics to round out and provide further exposition of the Progress Board's "Core" Benchmarking Framework.

Economy, Innovation and Education – Inter-Provincial Summary Findings

The three core target indicators used to measure economic performance are the growth rate of real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, the level of real personal disposable income per capita and the employment rate (for those aged 15 to 64).

British Columbia's position on the core economic targets and performance indicators ranges

Core Target 1: Economic Growth (Growth of Real GDP per Capita) – In 2005, BC ranked fourth among the provinces in level of real GDP per capita and second for the growth of real GDP per capita (2.4%, versus an average of 1.9% for all provinces). Over the ten-year period 1996-2005, BC was last in the country for annual average improvement on this basic performance measure. In addition to being above the national average growth rate of real GDP per capita since 2002 BC achieved the economic growth target in 2004 and 2005.
Overarching Goal: Target 1st or 2nd among the provinces in the growth of real GDP per capita by 2010.

Core Target 2: Standard of Living (Real Personal Disposable Income per Capita) – In 2005, BC had the third highest level of real personal disposable income per capita in Canada, at $20,983 per person ($1997), below the Canadian average of $21,276 per person ($1997). Among the provinces, BC ranked second in improvement from 2004 to 2005, and it was the second-least successful in raising real personal disposable incomes on average between 1996 and 2005.
Overarching Goal: Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for the level of real personal disposable income per capita by 2010.

Core Target 3: Jobs (Employment Rate - For Those Aged 15 – 64) – In 2005, BC ranked fifth in Canada with an employment rate of 72.0% among those aged 15 to 64, while the national average was 72.5%. Among the provinces, BC was first in improving its record between 2004 and 2005. Over the decade 1996 to 2005, BC posted the smallest annual average improvements in the employment rate among the provinces.
Overarching Goal: Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for the employment rate among those aged 15 to 64 by 2010.

from strong to weak. A top three "by province" rank for the most recent year of data available is listed as strong performance. Ranks of four through seven are listed as middling performance and a bottom three rank warrants a weak performance designation.

British Columbia's overall position on the Economy, Innovation and Education core target and performance indicators as conveyed in this benchmarking report is middling to strong. Of the sixteen indicators, nine are in the strong category, five are in the middling category and two are listed as weak. Two of the indicators (as designated with the ↑ in the following table) show improvement and the other fourteen show no change in rank.

Strong Position

- British Columbia posted the smallest *growth* in real GDP per capita between 1996 and 2005, but recorded the second highest *growth* among the provinces in 2004 and 2005. British Columbia's annual *growth* rate of real GDP per capita has been ahead of the national average in every year since 2002. The last time BC was ahead of the average – prior to 2002 – was 1993. In 2005, BC's *level* of real GDP per capita was fourth among provinces at $34,173, versus the Canadian average of $35,843.
- In 2005, British Columbia had the third highest real personal disposable income per capita in Canada at $20,983, up $494 (2.4%) from 2004. In 1996, BC's real personal disposable income per capita was $366 above the Canadian average of $18,114. British Columbia remained above the national average until 1998, when it began to fall behind. BC was $145 below the average in 1998 and by 2003 it was $571 below the average. After widening from 1999 through 2003 the gap shrank to $479 in 2004 and to $293 in 2005.

Economy, Innovation and Education Performance Rank (and last year's rank)					
		Most Recent	Strong (1-3/10)	Middling (4-7/10)	Weak (8-10/10)
CT1	**Economic Growth**	2005	**2 (2)**		
CT2	**Standard of Living**	2005	**3 (3)**		
CT3	**Jobs**	2005		**5 (5)**	
PI1	Real Average Hourly Wage	2005	**2 (2)**		
PI2	Productivity	2005		**5 (6) ↑**	
PI3	Total Exports per Capita	2005			**8 (8)**
PI4	Taxpayer-Supported Debt	2005/06	**2 (2)**		
PI5	Per Capita Tax Burden	2005/06		**6 (6)**	
PI6	Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	2006	**2 (2)**		
PI7	Provincial Surplus/(Deficit)	2005/06	**2 (2)**		
PI8	Net Inter-Provincial Migration	2005/06	**2 (2)**		
PI9	Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2005	**3 (3)**		
PI10	Secondary School Graduates	2004			**8 (8)**
PI11	University Completion	2005	**2 (2)**		
PI12	R&D as a Percent of GDP	2004		**4 (4)**	
PI13	Natural and Applied Science and Rel. Occ.	2005		**4 (5) ↑**	
Sub-Total			**9**	**5**	**2**

- In 1996, British Columbia ranked first in Canada with a real average hourly wage of $16.50. In 2005, British Columbia ranked second with a real average hourly wage of $15.85, behind Ontario at $16.02 and ahead of Alberta at $15.64.
- In 2005/06, British Columbia posted the second lowest taxpayer-supported debt as a percent of GDP at 16.2%, behind Alberta which has eliminated its debt and ahead of Manitoba at 18.4%. British Columbia's taxpayer-supported debt was $27.4 billion, or 76% of the province's total debt burden. The remaining 24%, or $7.5 billion, of BC's public debt is self-supported debt incurred by commercial Crown corporations and agencies that carry and repay their own debt.
- In 2006, BC's top marginal personal tax rate stands at 43.7%, second lowest in the country behind Alberta at a rate of 39.0%. The province of Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest 2006 rate at 48.6%. From 1994 to 1998, BC had the highest top marginal personal income tax rate in Canada at 54.2%. The gap between BC and Alberta's rates narrowed from 8.6 percentage points in 1998 to 4.7 percentage points in 2002, where it remains.
- In 1996/97, BC had a deficit equivalent to 0.7% of GDP. BC ran budget deficits between 1996/97 and 1998/99, before posting a surplus in fiscal years 1999/00

and 2000/01 buoyed by sharp (and temporary) "spikes" in electricity and natural gas revenues. These two surplus years were followed by three more deficit years. British Columbia posted the second largest surplus as a percent of GDP among the provinces in 2004/05 and 2005/06.

- From 1996/97 to 2005/06, BC posted an annual average decrease of 0.7 people per 1,000 population. BC gained 9,880 migrants in 1996/97 and 19,858 from 2003/04 on, but lost 57,002 between 1997/98 and 2002/03. Alberta led Canada with an average annual increase of 9.2 people per 1,000 population over the 1996/97 to 2005/06 period.
- In 2005, business gross fixed capital formation was equal to 20.2% of BC's GDP, above the Canadian average of 19.8%. British Columbia ranked fifth for growth in this important measure between 2004 and 2005 behind Nova Scotia, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Alberta. Although BC earned a strong rank on this indicator, a distinction must be made between total investment and non-residential investment. In 2005, non-residential business investment was equal to 11.8% of BC's GDP, below the Canadian average of 13.9%. Between 2004 and 2005, BC saw an increase of 4.3% i[illegible]on-residential business investment as a percent of GDP, which earned a fifth place rank. Canada saw an increase of 5.8% between 2004 and 2005.
- In 1996, 19.0% of BC's population had completed a university education, the second highest proportion in Canada. This compared with Alberta at 17.9%, Ontario at 20.6%, and the Canadian average of 18.4%. In 2005, 24.5% of BC's population had completed a university education, second behind Ontario at 27.2% and ahead of Alberta (23.9%) and Quebec (23.3%). The Canadian average in 2005 was 24.4%.

Middling Position

- From 1996 to 2005, BC consistently stayed in the mid-range for the employment rate in Canada. In 2005, BC lagged behind the leading provinces with an employment rate of 72.0%, placing it fifth overall in Canada. Until 1998, BC had an above average employment rate within Canada, but it has lagged since. However, the gap between BC and Canada peaked at 2.1 percentage points in 2002 and has been shrinking due to robust year-over-year job growth. In 2005, the gap was 0.5 percentage points.
- In 2005, British Columbia ranked fifth in Canada on productivity (real GDP per hour worked in the business sector). Newfoundland and Labrador (32.1%) and Saskatchewan (24.0%) saw the largest percentage increases in productivity between 1996 and 2005; BC's increase for this time period was 14.6%, ahead of Alberta (13.4%), New Brunswick (10.7%) and Prince Edward Island (9.1%).
- BC posted the sixth lowest consolidated provincial and local government tax burden in Canada at $5,866 in 2005/06. From 1996/97 onward, BC experienced a

19.6% increase in its consolidated provincial and local tax burden, the smallest in the country. From 1996/97 to 2005/06, BC saw the per capita consolidated provincial and local government tax burden rise by $961. In comparison, Alberta recorded an increase of $1,320 and Ontario posted an increase of $1,510.

- In 2004, BC ranked fourth among the provinces for spending on research and development as a percent of GDP with a ratio of 1.45%. The relative gap between R&D spending in BC and the Canadian average has decreased from 40.4% in 1995 to 28.1% in 2004. BC's R&D as a percent of GDP increased by 43.3% over the period 1995 to 2004, the second largest increase in the country. In 2004, $7.2 billion was expended on R&D in Quebec, compared to $2.3 billion in BC and $2.1 billion in Alberta. Ontario led the way with $12.6 billion in that year.
- British Columbia's proportion of scientists and engineers to total employment grew in six of the ten years between 1996 and 2005. The proportion of BC's total employment consisting of scientists and engineers was 6.4% in 2005, up from 5.4% in 1996. This marked the third smallest increase in Canada over this period.

Weak Position

- In 1996, BC posted total exports per capita of $12,336. By 2005, BC's exports per capita had climbed to $15,847, giving it eighth rank among Canadian provinces. Between 1996 and 2005, BC's per capita exports increased by an annual average rate of 2.4%. This rate of growth was the second lowest in Canada. Ontario's per capita exports rose at an annual average rate of 3.0% between 1996 and 2005. In 2005, Ontario had the highest per capita exports in Canada at $26,118.
- In 1998, BC had the second lowest number of secondary school graduates per 1,000 population aged 18 years, at 693. Quebec was first at 883, followed by Prince Edward Island at 881 graduates per 1,000 18 year olds and Newfoundland and Labrador at 852. By 2004, the number of secondary school graduates per 1,000 18 year olds in BC had grown by 3.1% to 714, the fourth largest increase in Canada.

Environment, Health and Society – Inter-Provincial Summary Findings

British Columbia has a solid overall record on the various environment, health and society core targets and performance indicators. In this broad area, the three core target indices chosen by the Progress Board are environmental quality, health outcomes, and social condition.

British Columbia's position on the environment, health and society core targets and performance indicators ranges from strong to weak. A top three rank for the most recent year of data available is considered strong performance. Ranks of four through seven are viewed as middling and a bottom three rank warrants a weak performance designation.

British Columbia's overall position on the Environment, Health and Society core targets and performance indicators included in this benchmarking report is strong. Of the sixteen indicators, ten are in the strong category, two are in the middling category and four are listed as weak. However, the indicators with weak performance are all associated with social condition. Three indicators (as designated with the ↓ in the following table) show a decline in rank. One indicator (as designated with the ↑ in the following table) shows an improvement in rank. The other twelve indicators show no change.

Core Target 4: Environmental Quality – BC currently ranks first in Canada for overall environmental quality based on an average of its performance rankings for urban air quality, greenhouse gas emissions per capita, and protected areas.
Overarching Goal: Maintain 1st position in Canada for environmental quality through 2010.

Core Target 5: Health Outcomes – In 2003, BC was first in Canada in health outcomes based on an average of its performance rankings for life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, infant mortality and potential years of life lost.
Overarching Goal: Maintain 1st position in Canada for health outcomes through 2010.

Core Target 6: Social Condition – In 2004, BC ranked ninth in social condition based on an average of its performance rankings for the percent of families and unattached individuals with income below the after-tax low income cut-off (LICO), the low birth weight rate, the personal and property crime rate, the percent of the population on income assistance, and the percent of total unemployment designated as long-term.
Overarching Goal: Target 1st or 2nd position for social condition in Canada by 2010.

Strong Position

- For environmental quality, BC ranks first in Canada based on an average of its performance rankings on urban air quality, greenhouse gas emissions per capita, and protected areas.
- British Columbia had the best health outcome performance among the provinces over the entire 1994 through 2003 period. For the most recent data available, BC had the top rank for life expectancy at birth and cancer mortality, and a second-place rank for cardiovascular disease mortality, infant mortality and potential years of life lost.
- British Columbia has a relatively good record on emissions of greenhouse gases per person. In 2004, it posted the second lowest level in Canada at 15.9 tonnes, roughly one-third below the national average of 23.7 tonnes. Over the period 1995 to 2004, BC ranked first among the provinces in annual average improvement (i.e., BC had the smallest average annual increase in per capita emissions).
- On parks and protected areas, BC leads Canada in the proportion of land officially set aside for this purpose, at 13.0%, compared to a national average of 8.4% and 12.3% in next-door Alberta.
- BC led the country in life expectancy in 2004/05. Over the 1995/96 to 2004/05 period, BC ranked second in raising life expectancy, reaching 80.9 years by 2004/05,

Environment, Health and Society Performance Rank (and last year's rank)					
		Most Recent	Strong (1-3/10)	Middling (4-7/10)	Weak (8-10/10)
CT4	**Environmental Quality**	2004	**1 (1)**		
CT5	**Health Outcomes**	2003	**1 (1)**		
CT6	**Social Condition**	2004			**9 (9*)**
PI14	Air Quality	2004		**5 (3) ↓**	
PI15	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2004	**2 (2)**		
PI16	Protected Areas	2003	**1 (1)**		
PI17	Life Expectancy at Birth	2004/05	**1 (1)**		
PI18	Cancer Mortality	2003	**1 (1)**		
PI19	Cardiovascular Disease Mortality	2003	**2 (2)**		
PI20	Infant Mortality	2003	**2 (5) ↑**		
PI21	Potential Years of Life Lost	2003	**2 (2)**		
PI22	Low Income Cut-Offs	2004			**10 (10)**
PI23	Low Birth Weight Rate	2004		**5 (3) ↓**	
PI24	Personal and Property Crime	2005			**9 (9)**
PI25	Income Assistance	2004	**2 (2)**		
PI26	Long-Term Unemployment	2005			**9 (8) ↓**
Sub-Total			**10**	**2**	**4**
*Note: *BC tied with Newfoundland and Labrador for second to last place in 2003.*					

up from 78.6 years in 1995/96.

- In 2003, approximately 156 people per 100,000 died from cancer in BC. This was the lowest rate in Canada, and 12.4% below the Canadian average of 176 people per 100,000. BC saw a 9.7% drop from its 1994 mortality rate of 173; the Canadian average was a decline of 8.0%.
- British Columbia scores well on cardiovascular mortality, with the second-lowest rate in the country in 2003. BC saw a 24.1% drop in its mortality rate between 1994 and 2003.
- British Columbia ranked second for the infant mortality rate in 2003 with an indicator value of 4.2 deaths per 1,000 live births, behind New Brunswick at 4.1 and ahead of Quebec 4.4. BC also has the lowest average infant mortality rate among the provinces for the most recent five and ten year periods.
- British Columbia ranked second in terms of Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL – an indicator of premature death based on current mortality rates) in 2003 with an indicator value of 49.1 years per 1,000 population, behind Ontario at 48.6 and ahead of Quebec at 51.5. Every province noted a decline in their PYLL rate be-

tween 1994 and 2003; British Columbia had the largest decrease.

- In 2004, BC ranked second in Canada with 3.8% of the population in receipt of income assistance. This was below the Canadian average of 5.4%. Alberta had the lowest ratio at 2.9%, followed by BC and then by Prince Edward Island at 4.8%. The highest ratio, 9.6%, was in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Middling Position

- Vancouver, the province's largest metropolitan center, ranked fifth among seven Canadian cities in 2004 for having the lowest concentrations of particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), a standard measure of air quality.
- On the incidence of low birth weight infants, an internationally recognized indicator of health and social condition, BC ranked fifth in 2004 and ranked third, on average, between 1995 and 2004.

Weak Position

- British Columbia earned the second to last rank for social condition in 2004. In 2004, BC had the bottom rank for percentage of families and unattached individuals below the after-tax low income cut-off (LICO), ninth-place rank for personal and property crime and long-term unemployment, second for the percent of the population on income assistance, and fifth for the low birth weight rate.
- In 2004, BC was last among the provinces on Statistics Canada's low income measure, with 18.0% of families and unattached individuals living below the Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO) level, higher than the national average of 15.2%.
- In 2005, BC had the country's second-highest combined personal and property crime rate, with the vast majority of reported incidents falling into the property crime category. The crime rate in BC has fallen from 10.1 crimes per 100 people in 1996 to 7.4 crimes per 100 people in 2005, a 26.3% decrease. After three years of increases, crime rates in BC fell by 2.8% in 2004 and by 6.3% in 2005.
- In 1996, BC had the fourth-lowest ratio of long-term unemployed people in the country at 12.1% of the total unemployed population. Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest rate at 22.2% and the Canadian average was 16.4%. British Columbia's rate peaked at 14.3% in 1997 then stayed between 10.0 and 12.5% between 1998 and 2003. The rate fell to a relative low of 8.9% in 2004 and increased to 10.4% in 2005.

US State and Key Competitors – Supplemental Information

To provide an indication of how BC compares with US and key Canadian competitors, the report contains a series of supplemental boxes that provide information on seven jurisdictions: BC, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Washington, Oregon and California. Due to data limitations, state-provincial comparisons are not available for all of the core targets and performance indicators. Similar to Canadian comparisons, BC's performance is grouped into weak, middling, and strong. Since there are only seven jurisdictions a top two ranking for the most recent year of data available is considered strong performance. Ranks of three through five are listed as middling performance and a sixth or seventh rank warrants a weak performance designation.

Economy, Innovation and Education

British Columbia did not have any top two rankings on provincial and state comparative economic performance indicators. Five out of eight BC ranks were between third and fifth, and the remaining three ranks were sixes and sevens. Two indicators (as designated with the ↓ in the following table) show deterioration and three (as designated with the ↑ in the following table) show improvement. The other three indicators show no change in rank.

Supplemental US Comparisons: Economy, Innovation and Education					
			BC's Performance		
		Most Recent	Strong (1-2/7)	Middling (3-5/7)	Weak (6-7/7)
CT1	**Economic Growth**	2005		**3 (4) ↑**	
CT2	**Standard of Living**	2005			**6 (6)**
CT3	**Jobs**	2005		**5 (6) ↑**	
PI5	Per Capita Tax Burden	2003/04		**5 (4) ↓**	
PI6	Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	2006		**3 (3)**	
PI7	Provincial (State) Surplus/(Deficit)	2003/04			**6 (7) ↑**
PI8	Net Inter-Provincial (State) Migration	2005		**4 (3) ↓**	
PI12	R&D as a Percent of GDP	2003			**6 (6)**
Sub-Total			**0**	**5**	**3**

Middling Position

- BC placed third for the growth of real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 2005. BC earned the fifth place rank for annual average growth between 1998 and 2005 on this indicator.
- BC ranked fifth on the employment rate in 2005. BC's employment rate growth has been ranked first or second in the last four years.
- In 2003/04, British Columbia ranked fifth with a per capita tax burden of $5,244. The two jurisdictions that ranked lower were provinces. The states had the lowest

tax burdens. Oregon's taxpayers contribute just $3,674 each ($1,569 lower than in BC), earning it the top rank. Washington State's tax burden is $4,367 ($876 lower than BC's) and California's burden is $4,720 ($524 lower than BC's).

- From 1994 through 2000 BC had the highest top marginal personal income tax rate, but BC's rank improved to third position in 2001, where it remains.
- BC had a downward trend in net inter-provincial migration from the 1992 peak of 1.16% of population to a trough of negative 0.36% in 1998 and 1999. British Columbia ranked fourth for net inter-provincial (inter-state) migration in 2005, lower than the third place rank BC earned in 2003 and 2004 but a significant improvement from sixth in 2002 and seventh in 2001.

Weak Position

- BC ranked sixth on real personal disposable income per capita in 2005. The three states clearly dominate this indicator. The gap in real personal disposable income per capita between BC and the states reviewed ranges from $7,423 (Oregon) to $10,208 (Washington State).
- British Columbia earned a sixth place rank in 2003/04 for provincial (state) surplus/(deficit), ahead of Ontario but trailing the three states and Alberta and Quebec. Between 1994/95 and 2003/04, BC posted an annual average deficit of 0.5 percent of GDP. This is better than the average deficit in Quebec and Ontario but behind the average surplus in Alberta, (2.0%), Oregon (1.8%), California (1.0%) and Washington State (0.6%).
- Spending on research and development as a percent of GDP is relatively low in BC; it ranked sixth in 2003.

Environment, Health and Society

Similar to the province-only comparisons, British Columbia performed generally better on environment, health and society indicators than on measures of economic, innovation and education performance. Of the three provincial-state comparisons, BC had two strong rankings and one weak one.

Supplemental US Comparisons: Environment, Health and Society					
			BC's Performance		
		Most Recent	Strong (1-2/7)	Middling (3-5/7)	Weak (6-7/7)
PI14	Air Quality	2004	**1 (1)**		
PI23	Low Birth Weight Rate	2004	**1 (1)**		
PI24	Personal and Property Crime Rates	2005			**7 (7)**
Sub-Total			**2**	**0**	**1**

Strong Position

- Among the major cities in each jurisdiction considered, BC had the best air quality in 2004. Vancouver had the lowest annual mean concentration of fine particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) in its air in 2004; Los Angeles had the highest. Vancouver's air quality deteriorated in 2002 and 2003 but improved in 2004.
- BC had the lowest incidence of low birth weight infants of the seven jurisdictions reviewed. In fact, between 1995 and 2004, BC's peak low birth weight ratio was below the lowest rates seen in most jurisdictions.

Weak Position

- BC not only has the second-highest per capita combined personal and property crime rate in Canada, it also has a higher rate than those found in Washington, Oregon, and California, earning it a seventh place rank on the personal and property crime rate indicator.

North American Comparisons – Supplemental Information

Where data are available, comparisons for all sixty-one sub-national jurisdictions in Canada and the United States, the Canadian provinces, the US states and the District of Columbia are included. Comparisons are presented for three core targets and four performance indicators. The classification categories range from first place to twentieth for strong, twenty-first to fortieth for middling, and forty-first to sixty-first for weak.

Supplemental North American Comparisons					
Economy, Innovation and Education					
			BC's Performance		
		Most Recent	Strong (1-20/61)	Middling (21-40/61)	Weak (41-61/61)
CT1	**Economic Growth**	2005		**28**	
CT2	**Standard of Living**	2005			**54**
CT3	**Jobs**	2005		**40**	
PI8	Net Inter-Provincial (State) Migration	2005		**28**	
PI12	R&D as a Percent of GDP	2003		**39**	
Environment, Health and Society					
		Most Recent	Strong (1-20/61)	Middling (21-40/61)	Weak (40-61/61)
PI23	Low Birth Weight Rate	2004	**5**		
PI24	Personal and Property Crime Rates	2005			**60**
Sub-Total			**1**	**4**	**2**

Strong Position

- Consistent with strong performance in other comparisons, British Columbia ranked fifth in North America in 2004 for the basic health and social condition indicator low birth weight infants relative to all live births. Over the period 1995 through 2004, BC had an average of 5.2% of all live births classified as low birth weight, tied with New Brunswick and behind Prince Edward Island at 4.8%.

Middling Position

- Real GDP per capita grew by 2.4% between 2004 and 2005 in British Columbia to rank 28th out of sixty-one North American sub-national jurisdictions. British Columbia had an average annual growth rate of 2.1% between 1998 and 2005 (27th rank). Saskatchewan was the top ranked province with growth of 3.6% earning 14th place.
- Using the US definition of employment rate, namely employment to population for those aged fifteen and older (sixteen and older for the states), BC ranked fortieth with a rate of 61.8% in 2005. The top ranked jurisdiction was Minnesota at 71.0% and Newfoundland & Labrador earned the bottom rank with a 49.8% employment rate.
- Reflecting renewed migration, British Columbia placed twenty-eighth in North America for net inter-provincial (state) migrants as a percent of the population in 2005 with a migration rate of 0.1% compared to first place Nevada with a net gain of 2.4% and last place District of Columbia with a net loss of 1.8% of population.
- British Columbia ranked thirty-ninth on research and development spending as a percent of GDP in 2003, well behind first place New Mexico at 8.7% and Massachusetts at 5.3%, but BC's 1.4% was more than double that of last place Wyoming at 0.5%.

Weak Position

- The broad North American comparison of real personal disposable (PDI) income per capita confirms that the provinces are not in the same league as the states. The top ranked province is Alberta at forty-third with a real PDI of $25,473, just ahead of South Carolina and just behind Alabama. British Columbia ranked fifty-fourth with a real PDI per capita of $20,983 in 2005.
- On a comparable set of crime categories, BC ranked second-last on the crime rate in 2005. British Columbia's property crime rate was sixty-first at 5,710 incidents per 100,000 population, above Arizona at 5,165, Saskatchewan at 4,935, and the District of Columbia at 4,886. British Columbia's personal crime rate was twenty-ninth at 308 incidents per 100,000 population, much closer to top ranked Prince Edward Island at 84 incidents than bottom ranked District of Columbia at 1,459.

International Comparisons – Supplemental Information

To provide a sense of how BC compares with international jurisdictions, the report contains a series of supplemental indicators that examine BC, Canada and the twenty-nine other member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Due to data limitations, a comparison is not available for all of the core targets and performance indicators. Similar to other comparisons contained elsewhere within this report, BC's performance is grouped into strong, middling, and weak. Since there are thirty-one jurisdictions a top ten ranking for the most recent year of data available is considered strong performance. Ranks of eleven through twenty are listed as middling performance and twenty-first through thirty-first ranks warrant a weak performance designation.

Economy, Innovation and Education

Two of British Columbia's ranks fell between first and tenth, earning them strong designations. The other three ranked between eleventh and twentieth, earning middling designations.

Supplemental International Comparisons: Economy, Innovation and Education

			BC's Performance		
		Most Recent	Strong (1-10/31)	Middling (11-20/31)	Weak (21-31/31)
CT1	**Economic Growth**	2004	**9**		
CT3	**Jobs**	2005	**9**		
PI3	Exports	2004		**18**	
PI9	Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2005		**12**	
PI12	R&D as a Percent of GDP	2004		**19**	
Sub-Total			**2**	**3**	**0**

Strong Position

- Although BC had a strong rank on real GDP per capita growth in 2004 it is generally a middling performer in comparison to OECD countries. BC ranked ninth out of thirty-one jurisdictions for growth between 2003 and 2004 but twenty-seventh for average annual growth between 1985 and 2004. In 2004, BC ranked fourteenth on the level of real per capita GDP among OECD jurisdictions.
- British Columbia has relatively high employment when compared to OECD countries. In 2005, BC ranked ninth out of thirty-one jurisdictions with an employment to population ratio (ages 15-64) of 72.0%. British Columbia's ratio was below top ranked Iceland (84.4%) and well above bottom ranked Turkey (45.9%). British Columbia ranked eleventh for the average ratio over the period 1996 through 2005.

Middling Position

- For international exports of goods and services, British Columbia ranked in the middle of the pack (18th) of OECD jurisdictions in 2004. Canada performed better, earning the eleventh place rank. Ireland earned second place with per capita exports roughly three and a half times those seen in BC.

- British Columbia's performance on total gross fixed capital formation as a percent of GDP when compared to OECD countries is middling. In 2005, BC's ratio of 21.5% earned it a rank of twelfth out of the thirty jurisdictions with data. Over the period 1999 through 2005, BC averaged a ratio of 18.7% which resulted in a rank of twenty-eighth (of thirty).
- British Columbia registers middling performance on public and private research and development (R&D) as a percent of GDP in comparison to OECD countries. BC ranked nineteenth out of thirty-one jurisdictions for R&D spending in 2004; Canada ranked twelfth. Average R&D expenditures as a percent of GDP in BC were 1.17% between 1995 and 2004, compared to 3.73% for number one ranked Sweden and 0.38% for last place Mexico.

Environment, Health and Society

Three of British Columbia's ranks were in the top ten, earning strong designations. The other indicator in this section earned a weak designation.

Supplemental International Comparisons: Environment, Health and Society					
			BC's Performance		
		Most Recent / Period	Strong (1-10/31)	Middling (11-20/31)	Weak (21-31/31)
PI15	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2003			**21**
PI17	Life Expectancy at Birth	2004	**4**		
PI23	Low Birth Weight Rate	1995 - 2004*	**8**		
PI26	Long-Term Unemployment	2005	**6**		
Total			**3**	**0**	**1**
Note: *A ten year average is used to minimize the effect of annual fluctuations on ranks.					

Strong Position

- British Columbia performs well on life expectancy at birth in relation to OECD countries. According to the most recent data available, BC ranked fourth with a life expectancy at birth of 80.9 years, behind Japan, Switzerland and Iceland. Canada ranked tenth in the OECD with an average life expectancy at birth of 79.8 years.
- British Columbia performs well on the low birth weight rate in relation to OECD countries. British Columbia ranked eighth out of thirty-one jurisdictions with an average low birth weight rate of 5.2% over 1995 - 2004. Korea ranked first with a low weight birth rate of 3.7%, followed by Iceland (3.8%), Finland (4.2%), Swe-

den (4.3%), and Ireland (4.9%). Canada ranked tenth in the OECD with a low birth weight rate of 5.7%. Note that a ten year average is used for this indicator to minimize the effect of annual fluctuations on ranks.

- In 2005, British Columbia ranked 6th compared to OECD countries although its rate (10.4%) was much higher than that in Korea or Mexico, which earned 1st and 2nd ranks with respective rates of 0.8 and 2.4 percent. British Columbia saw a significant improvement from its 7th ranked rate of 12.5% in 2003.

Weak Position

- British Columbia does not perform well on greenhouse gas emissions per capita in relation to OECD countries, in contrast to its strong performance relative to other Canadian provinces. In 2003, BC ranked twenty-first of twenty-eight jurisdictions with per capita emissions of 15.4 tonnes, ahead of twenty-sixth place Canada.

Special Topics – Supplemental Information

In addition to the wealth of information contained in the core target and performance indicators, special topics related to the benchmarks are included at various points throughout the report. As in previous years, some Topic Boxes have been retained and updated and others removed. Topic Boxes have been removed because: there are no new data available, there is no new research to report on, or other topics were deemed to be of higher priority this year. The Appendix section entitled "Topic Boxes That Have Been Removed" lists these boxes and provides links to the Progress Board website. Topic Boxes will be cycled in and out of subsequent reports as new information and data updates become available.

Special Topics Related to Economy, Innovation and Education

Infrastructure, Market Connectivity and Economic Growth.....page 33

The cost of infrastructure investments makes selecting the most effective and beneficial projects crucial. Of course, determining which infrastructure investments will be most effective in triggering economic growth and which have the highest return for investments of scarce public funds, is by no means a straightforward process. It is important to recognize the difference between the state or value of infrastructure from an economic versus an engineering standpoint. For example, a given roadway in disrepair may be a target for funds from an engineering perspective, but if the road is underutilized and provides little contribution to local industry or business its economic value is marginal. Asking the right questions while looking at infrastructure investments from the point of view of their economic potential is an important part of ensuring that limited public funds are spent on those projects which will trigger the most economic growth and quality of life benefits for British Columbians.

Infrastructure Debt and Deficit.....page 35

The infrastructure gap is a pressing issue that must be addressed in the coming years if Canada wishes to preserve its competitiveness. In addition to being an important economic driver, infrastructure is also an essential component in preserving the quality of life for the public. Properly maintained transportation systems afford the efficient delivery of goods, services and resources, while allowing people to navigate safely through cities and provinces. In general, an infrastructure deficit results when expenditures do not keep up with what is required to meet expected needs. The accumulation of such annual deficits has resulted in an 'infrastructure debt', the backlog of unmet construction and maintenance needs, which is also what is commonly referred to as the infrastructure gap.

Historical Comparison.....page 45

Two interesting facts are revealed in long-term analysis of the first three Core Targets, economic growth, standard of living, and jobs. First, BC's performance on growth in real GDP per capita and real personal disposable income per capita deteriorated in the 1980s, and was especially weak in the 1990s. Second, BC's performance has been especially weak relative to the national average on these two core indicators, though importantly BC has been ahead of the national average for growth in real GDP per capita since 2002 and BC's real PDI grew faster than the national average in 2004 and 2005. Taken together, this presentation suggests BC has experienced a long period of structural decline, though there is noteworthy improvement in recent years. The last time BC was ahead of the national average on both of these important indicators prior to 2005 was 1987.

Detailed Balance of Trade.....page 52

A trade deficit is not problematic for an economy unless it becomes very large relative to what is being produced; in BC the overall trade deficit represented just 2.5 percent of GDP in 2005. Although BC's interprovincial trade deficit was the largest in Canada for the entire period 1981 to 2005 – in 2005 the interprovincial deficit was $8.4 billion – as a share of GDP, BC's interprovicial deficit is smaller than all provinces except Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador. BC's balance of trade – exports minus imports – shows a stable balance in services trade (with a low of -$933 million and a high of $1.3 billion), and a trade deficit driven by the balance of trade for goods starting in the late 1980s.

The BC/Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement.....page 53

On April 28, 2006 British Columbia and Alberta signed a Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA), aiming to eliminate all barriers to trade, investment, and labour mobility between the two provinces. The pathbreaking agreement seeks to dismantle persistent inter-provincial barriers to trade, including overlapping regulations and policy misalignment, along with further integration of the two economies. It will commence April 2007, with a transition period lasting until April 2009.

Business Tax Competitiveness.....page 57

As the economy becomes increasingly global and reaps the benefits of continual technology advances, physical location becomes less important. A brief examination of some of the world's top economic growth performers (Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Ireland) illustrates that BC and Canada share many of the ingredients of these jurisdiction's success: a highly educated population, advanced transportation and communications infrastructures, and export-oriented production. The only key difference appears to be effective tax rates that are far above those of competing jurisdictions.

Benchmarking Key Business and Personal Tax Rates.....page 60

Among the provinces, British Columbia's top marginal personal income tax rate is second-lowest for most people's main income source, salary and interest income, second-lowest for capital gains income and fourth-lowest for dividend income. British Columbia has the third-lowest combined federal and provincial small business income tax rates for 2006, behind Alberta and New Brunswick. BC ranked third among the provinces for its general corporate tax rate, behind Quebec and Alberta, and ranked second, behind Alberta for the tax rate on corporate investment income.

Head Offices.....page 62

Head offices are the command centre of a company, the place where strategies are developed, senior managers work, professional services are employed, and where control over business decisions reside. The number of head offices in a region, and rate of growth or decline in that number, has become an important benchmark of both a region's attractiveness to business investment and its relative economic success. Data for major cities in Canada show that Vancouver lost head offices between 1990 and 2001. Recent province-wide data show that BC's position on total head offices appears to have deteriorated in 2005 following improvements in 2003 and 2004.

Size of Government.....page 65

Research indicates that the relative size of a country's government sector may negatively affect competitiveness. Increases in the size of government beyond the "optimal point" may produce little in terms of social progress. Although BC ranked 3rd in 2005/06, its government spending as a percent of GDP (25.4%) was above Alberta's (17.5%) and Ontario's (24.0%). Between 1996/97 and 2005/06, BC's government sector shrank by 10.0%, the third-largest decrease in the country. Newfoundland and Labrador government spending as a percent of GDP shrank by 33.1%, Alberta's shrank by 12.7% and Ontario's shrank by 4.5%. Two provinces had increases, Prince Edward Island, which saw government spending as a percent of GDP increase by 1.9% and Saskatchewan with a 2.4% increase.

Population Changes in BC.....page 69

Between 1990 and 2006, BC enjoyed the second-highest growth in overall population among the provinces, with growth of 31.0%, bettered by Alberta (32.5%) but well ahead of third place Ontario (23.2%) and the Canadian average (17.8%). British Columbia experienced a net outflow of people to other provinces in every year between 1997/98 and 2002/03 as the BC economy entered a slower growth phase and key competitors Alberta and Ontario improved their relative performance. Net interprovincial migration to BC turned positive in 2003/04 and remained positive in 2004/05 and 2005/06.

Interprovincial Migration.....page 70

Statistics Canada recently updated its population projection for Canada, the provinces and the territories. The new report presents the results of six population projection scenarios from 2005 through 2031 for the provinces and territories and up to 2056 for Canada. Projections are based on assumptions that take into account the most recent trends relating to components of population growth, particularly: fertility; mortality; immigration; emigration; and, interprovincial migration. Of these components, interprovincial migration is the most volatile factor in population projections and with the projected decline in natural increase, migration will become a more important factor in population growth for several provinces.

Education Spending and Outcomes.....page 76

British Columbia spends more, on a per student basis, than most other provinces. In the last seven years, BC's real spending ($1992) was the highest in two, second-highest in four and third-highest in one. As with health care spending and outcomes, a simple review of per student spending levels and education outcome measures does not suggest any clear causal relationship between spending and outcomes.

Post-Secondary Education and Trades Training.....page 78

The proportion of the Canadian population with some post-secondary education, regardless of credential status, has increased significantly since 1990. The proportion in Canada has increased by 15.0 percentage points, from 41.6 percent in 1990 to 56.6 percent in 2005. The proportion has not increased as quickly in BC, but BC's proportion (57.9%) was 1.3 percentage points above the national average in 2005. In 2005, 10.7 percent of Canadians aged fifteen and older had recognized trades training. The ratio in BC was an above average 11.0 percent, which earned a sixth place rank.

R&D in Canada and British Columbia.....page 84

Research and development (R&D) leads to innovation and ultimately productivity improvements and economic growth. Research and development spending in BC has long lagged behind Ontario and Quebec in both absolute and relative terms. British Columbia accounted for only 8.8 percent of Gross Domestic Expenditures on R&D (GERD) in Canada in 2004, while Ontario accounted for 48.6 percent and Quebec accounted for 27.7 percent. Several factors help explain BC's historical underperformance, including: a reliance on natural resources; a large service sector; an underdeveloped venture capital market; clusters of activity outside of BC; low investment levels; and taxation.

Special Topics Related to Environment, Health and Society

Additional Environmental Measures.....page 92

The 'environment' is not easily summarized - especially in cross-jurisdictional comparisons - in any single indicator. For this reason, the Progress Board uses an index to measure environmental quality in its core measurement framework based on indicators available across provincial boundaries. To supplement our core environmental quality index and the three indicators that underpin it (urban air quality, greenhouse gas emissions per capita and protected areas) a number of additional measures less commonly used and frequently without comparison in other jurisdictions may enhance our understanding of BC's overall environmental performance.

Climate Change.....page 97

The economic costs of mitigating human-induced climate change are high and concentrated in the short term, while possible benefits occur in the long-run and are diffused over both time and physical area. One 2001 report estimated the cost of achieving the Kyoto target in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would be $120 per tonne CO2 equivalent emission and would necessitate a 10 to 100 percent increase in electricity prices, 60 percent increase in natural gas prices and 50 percent increase for gasoline. Adaptation, in the context of climate change, refers to activities that minimize the negative impacts of climate change or encourage the development of new opportunities that may arise in the changed environment.

Health Insurance Coverage by Country.....page 101

In 2003, the public share of total health spending in Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries ranged from a low of 44 percent in the US to a high of 90 percent in the Czech Republic. Canada, at 70 percent came in just below the OECD average of 72 percent. Canada and France tied for third and fourth highest private insurance spending at 13 percent. An additional 15 percent of health spending in Canada came from out-of-pocket payments. Canada and Switzerland are the only countries where private coverage is restricted to services not covered by the public system.

Comparative Wait Times.....page 102

"Wait Times" have become a focal point in the ongoing debate over the relative success of our health care systems in meeting and treating the health needs of Canadians. Statistics Canada surveys indicate that roughly 20 percent of patients waiting for care reported that they were adversely affected by the wait, indicating factors such as pain, anxiety, deterioration in their health, impairment in daily activities, and family stress.

Health Care Spending and Health Outcomes.....page 103

Government spending on health care has been growing in real terms for decades and it is likely to continue to grow as Canada's population ages. In 1976, BC spent $3.5 billion on health care (all figures in 1997 dollars). By 1986, BC's expenditure had reached $5.1 billion and by 2005 it had reached $9.8 billion. As a percent of GDP, BC's health expenditure has gone from 5.5% in 1982 to 7.2% in 2005. As a percent of provincial government program spending, BC's health care spending went from 26.6% in 1976 to 40.9% in 2005.

Health Risk Factors.....page 108

Cancer and heart disease remain the biggest killers in Canada overall and in British Columbia. In 2004, cancer was responsible for 28.3 percent and heart disease 22.6 percent of all deaths in BC; together they account for the majority of deaths in BC. Both share common risk factors – obesity, inactivity, poor eating habits, and tobacco use. These health risk factors are common, but are controllable through changes in habits and lifestyle.

Low Income Incidence Measures.....page 113

There are several accepted measures of low income used by Statistics Canada to gauge the proportion of a population in a particular area living below a defined income threshold, and to compare the incidence of low income across demographic groups (e.g. individuals under 18, elderly families and lone-parent families, both male and female-led). The Low Income Cut-Off or LICO is the most established measure and is the one the Progress Board currently uses as a component of its Social Condition Index. A new approach, the Market Basket Measure (MBM) was recently developed, though MBM results are available for only the 2000 through 2002 period.

Crime Rates in North American Metropolitan Centres.....page 121

A common way to monitor crime levels is to examine police reported crimes. Beyond top level crime categories, detailed information is available by province, state and major metropolitan areas. Statistics Canada recently investigated crime data reported in Canada and the United States and found that among eight "offense level" categories of crime, only minor differences existed in seven and one, sexual assault, (Canada) was not comparable to the US category of forcible rape. Consistent with ranks reported for British Columbia, Vancouver has the highest combined violent and property crime rate among major Canadian and American cities.

Outline of the Remainder of Volume I

The remainder of this volume is divided into two chapters and a number of appendices.

Chapter II reports the economy, innovation and education benchmarks.

Chapter III reports the environment, health and society benchmarks.

Appendix A lists the Board members, Staff and Advisory Group.

Appendix B provides a discussion of Methodology.

Appendix C is a Glossary of Terms.

Appendix D consists of the data analyzed in this Volume.

II. Economy, Innovation and Education

Goal
Make BC a leader for economy, innovation and education in Canada by 2010.

Targets	
1.	**Economic Growth:** Target 1st or 2nd among the provinces in the growth of real GDP per capita by 2010.
2.	**Standard of Living:** Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for the level of real personal disposable income per capita by 2010.
3.	**Jobs:** Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for the employment rate among those aged 15 to 64 by 2010.

Performance Indicators	
1.	Real Average Hourly Wage
2.	Productivity
3.	Total Exports
4.	Taxpayer Supported Debt
5.	Tax Burden - Consolidated Provincial and Local
6.	Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate
7.	Provincial Surplus/(Deficit)
8.	Net Inter-Provincial Migration
9.	Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation
10.	Secondary School Graduates
11.	University Completion
12.	Research and Development
13.	Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations

Where BC Ranks: Most Recent

Economy, Innovation and Education

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	2005	2 (2)	4	1	3	7	8	10	6	5	9
◎	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	2005	3 (3)	1	6	5	2	4	8	7	10	9
◎	3. Employment to Population Ratio	2005	5 (5)	1	3	2	4	7	9	8	6	10
📈	1. Real Average Hourly Wage	2005	2 (2)	3	6	7	1	5	8	9	10	4
📈	2. Productivity	2005	5 (6)	1	4	7	2	3	8	9	10	6
📈	3. Total Exports Per Capita	2005	8 (8)	2	3	5	1	6	4	10	9	7
📈	4. Taxpayer Supported Debt	2005/06	2 (3)	1	4	3	5	7	6	9	8	10
📈	5. Per Capita Tax Burden	2005/06	6 (6)	5	8	7	9	10	1	3	2	4
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	2006	2 (2)	1	3	4	5	8	6	9	7	10
📈	7. Provincial Deficit/Surplus	2005/06	2 (2)	1	4	7	8	9	3	5	10	6
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	2005/06	2 (2)	1	10	8	5	4	7	6	3	9
📈	9. Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2005	3 (3)	1	4	9	10	8	6	5	7	2
📈	10. Secondary School Graduates	2004	8 (8)	10	9	2	7	1	5	3	4	6
📈	11. University Completion	2005	2 (2)	3	7	5	1	4	9	6	8	10
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2004	4 (4)	6	7	5	2	1	9	3	8	10
📈	13. Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occ.	2005	4 (5)	1	10	9	2	3	6	7	8	5
	Arithmetic Average		3.8	2.6	5.6	5.5	4.4	5.5	6.6	6.6	7.2	6.7
	Overall Indicative Rank		2	1	6	4	3	4	7	7	10	9

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	2005	3 (4)	5	6	7	4	1	2
◎	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	2005	6 (6)	4	5	7	1	3	2
◎	3. Employment to Population Ratio	2005	5 (6)	1	3	7	2	6	4
📈	5. Per Capita Tax Burden	2003/04	5 (4)	4	6	7	2	1	3
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	2006	3 (3)	2	6	7	1	4	5
📈	7. Surplus/(Deficit) as a Percent of GDP	2003/04	6 (7)	2	7	5	4	1	3
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	2005	4 (3)	1	6	5	3	2	7
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2003	6 (6)	7	5	4	1	3	2
	Arithmetic Average		4.8	3.3	5.5	6.1	2.3	2.6	3.5
	Overall Indicative Rank		5	3	6	7	1	2	4

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	2004	9 (19)	20	17	8	15	13
◎	2. Employment to Population Ratio	2005	9 (11)	8	17	21	7	11
📈	3. Total Exports Per Capita	2004	18 (17)	11	2	17	19	28
📈	9. Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2005	12 (14)	15	4	2	30	19
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2004	19 (19)	12	21	6	14	7
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		13.4	13.2	12.2	10.8	17.0	15.6
	Overall Indicative Rank		4	3	2	1	6	5

Note on Tables: An arithmetic average and "overall indicative rank" are included for summary comparison purposes only. Each core target and performance indicator should be viewed independently for comparing British Columbia's overall economic, innovation and education performance relative to other jurisdictions.

Where BC Ranks: One Year Progress

Economy, Innovation and Education

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
🎯	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
🎯	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	2004 - 2005	2 (2)	1	3	9	7	8	6	5	10	4
🎯	3. Employment to Population Ratio	2004 - 2005	1 (3)	7	4	9	10	5	6	8	2	3
📈	1. Real Average Hourly Wage	2004 - 2005	9 (8)	2	1	8	10	6	4	5	7	3
📈	2. Productivity	2004 - 2005	6 (9)	1	3	2	4	5	9	7	8	10
📈	3. Total Exports Per Capita	2004 - 2005	6 (3)	10	2	5	7	1	4	8	3	9
📈	4. Taxpayer Supported Debt	2004/05 - 2005/06	2 (2)	9*	3	7	1	10	8	5	6	4
📈	5. Per Capita Tax Burden	2004/05 - 2005/06	7 (7)	1	8	2	3	5	6	4	9	10
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	2005 - 2006	1 (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
📈	7. Provincial Deficit/Surplus	2004/05 - 2005/06	6 (1)	2	7	10	4	5	8	9	3	1
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	2004/05 - 2005/06	7 (2)	1	2	8	5	4	10	6	3	9
📈	9. Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2004 - 2005	5 (4)	1	6	3	7	10	2	4	9	8
📈	10. Secondary School Graduates	2003 - 2004	8 (6)	3	7	1	10	2	6	4	9	5
📈	11. University Completion	2004 - 2005	2 (8)	1	6	8	7	3	5	10	9	4
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2003 - 2004	3 (5)	5	7	1	4	6	8	2	10	9
📈	13. Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occ.	2004 - 2005	3 (9)	6	4	10	5	9	7	8	2	1
	Arithmetic Average		4.5	3.0	4.3	5.6	5.7	5.3	6.0	5.7	6.1	5.4
	Overall Indicative Rank		3	1	2	6	7	4	9	8	10	5

Note: *not used in the calculation of arithmetic average - this measure is meaningless for Alberta since it has no debt.

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
🎯	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
🎯	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	2004 - 2005	2 (4)	1	4	5	7	3	6
🎯	3. Employment to Population Ratio	2004 - 2005	1 (2)	7	6	5	3	4	2
📈	5. Per Capita Tax Burden	2002/03-2003/04	7 (1)	1	2	3	4	6	5
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	2005 - 2006	1 (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1
📈	7. Surplus/(Deficit) as a Percent of GDP	2002/03-2003/04	4 (7)	5	7	6	3	1	2
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	2004 - 2005	6 (3)	1	5	4	3	2	7
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2002 - 2003	6 (2)	7	4	5	3	1	2
	Arithmetic Average		3.9	3.3	4.1	4.1	3.4	2.6	3.6
	Overall Indicative Rank		5	2	6	8	3	1	4

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
🎯	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
🎯	2. Employment to Population Ratio	2004 - 2005	8 (10)	22	2	20	23	18
📈	3. Total Exports Per Capita	2003 - 2004	21 (24)	26	28	1	30	11
📈	9. Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation	2004 - 2005	11 (3)	14	2	25	17	9
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	2003 - 2004	3 (16)	12	4	1	n/a	11
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		10.8	18.5	9.0	11.8	23.3	12.3
	Overall Indicative Rank		2	5	1	3	6	4

Where BC Ranks: Period Progress

Economy, Innovation and Education

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	1996 - 2005	10 (10)	9	3	7	6	5	4	2	8	1
◎	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	1996 - 2005	9 (10)	1	3	8	7	4	5	6	10	2
◎	3. Employment to Population Ratio	1996 - 2005	10 (10)	7	8	9	6	4	3	2	5	1
📈	1. Real Average Hourly Wage	1996 - 2005	9 (7)	2	6	8	7	10	4	3	5	1
📈	2. Productivity	1996 - 2005	7 (9)	9	2	3	5	4	8	6	10	1
📈	3. Total Exports Per Capita	1996 - 2005	9 (10)	10	4	6	8	7	5	2	3	1
📈	4. Taxpayer Supported Debt	1996/97 - 2005/06	8 (10)	1	2	3	4	10	5	7	6	9
📈	5. Per Capita Tax Burden	1996/97 - 2005/06	1 (1)	3	7	4	2	6	5	10	8	9
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	1996 - 2005	1 (1)	3	2	8	4	6	5	10	9	7
📈	7. Provincial Deficit/Surplus	1996/97 - 2005/06	5 (3)	1	7	9	2	3	8	6	10	4
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	1996/97 - 2005/06	8 (10)	1	10	6	4	3	7	5	9	2
📈	9. Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation	1996 - 2005	8 (10)	1	7	5	6	4	3	2	9	10
📈	10. Secondary School Graduates	1995 - 2004	2 (4)	5	9	3	8	1	10	4	7	6
📈	11. University Completion	1996 - 2005	1 (7)	4	3	8	5	2	6	7	10	9
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	1995 - 2004	2 (2)	7	6	9	4	3	5	8	1	10
📈	13. Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occ.	1996 - 2005	7 (10)	4	5	10	8	6	3	9	1	2
	Arithmetic Average		6.1	4.4	5.3	6.5	5.4	4.9	5.3	5.6	6.9	4.7
	Overall Indicative Rank		8	1	4	9	6	3	5	7	10	2

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

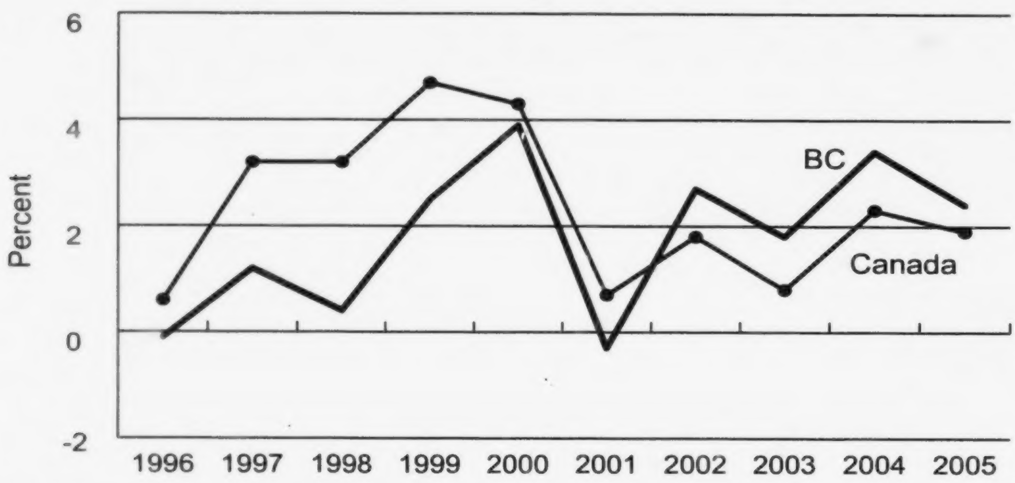
	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	1996 - 2005	7 (7)	5	4	3	6	1	2
◎	2. Standard of Living: Real Pers. Disp. Inc. Per Capita	1996 - 2005	7 (7)	1	6	2	4	5	3
◎	3. Employment to Population Ratio	1996 - 2005	5 (6)	3	2	1	6	7	4
📈	5. Per Capita Tax Burden	1994/95-2003/04	1 (1)	5	3	6	4	2	7
📈	6. Top Marginal Tax Rate	1997 - 2006	1 (1)	2	3	7	4	5	6
📈	7. Provincial Deficit/Surplus	1994/95-2003/04	7 (4)	1	3	2	6	4	5
📈	8. Net Inter-Provincial Migration	1996 - 2005	7 (6)	1	4	3	6	5	2
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	1994 - 2003	2 (2)	6	5	3	4	1	7
	Arithmetic Average		4.6	3.0	3.8	3.4	5.0	3.8	4.5
	Overall Indicative Rank		6	1	3	2	7	3	5

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
◎	1. Economic Growth: Growth of Real GDP Per Capita	1995 - 2004	28 (27)	17	1	3	13	21
◎	2. Employment to Population Ratio	1996 - 2005	21 (24)	10	2	24	16	27
📈	3. Total Exports Per Capita	1995 - 2004	31 (29)	22	4	3	28	29
📈	9. Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation	1996 - 2005	18 (23)	5	3	29	19	11
📈	12. R&D as a % of GDP	1995 - 2004	8 (8)	18	24	13	28	19
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		21.2	14.4	6.8	14.4	20.8	21.4
	Overall Indicative Rank		5	2	1	2	4	6

Core Target 1 Economic Growth Economy, Innovation and Education

Growth Rate of Real GDP Per Capita, BC and Canada, Annual Percent Change



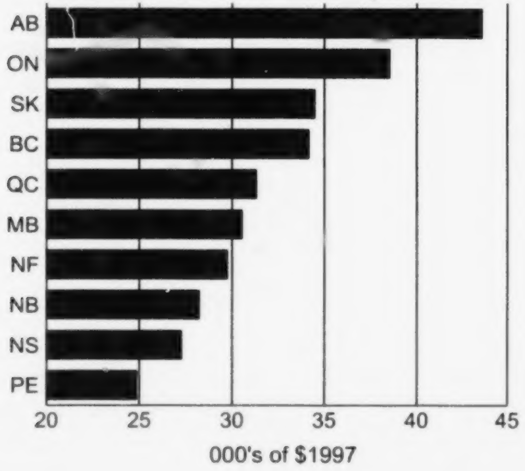
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Economic growth (i.e., the annual change of real GDP per capita) is a key measure of economic prosperity, expressed in terms of the value of output (goods and services produced) per person.

Gross Domestic Product is the value added to the economy by current productive activities of individuals, businesses, governments and non-residents (who may purchase and sell goods and services to British Columbians).

Level of Real GDP Per Capita, 2005



Why it's Important

The growth rate of real GDP per capita is an effective measure of changes in the prosperity of a jurisdiction and its population. Slower growth in real GDP per capita results in lower levels of purchasing power, real personal income, and real wages and salaries. If real GDP per capita increases faster than the population, then the size of the "economic pie" is growing on a per person basis.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 5th	2003 4th*	2004 2nd*	2005 **2nd**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 10th	1996-2005 **10th**

How Does BC Compare?

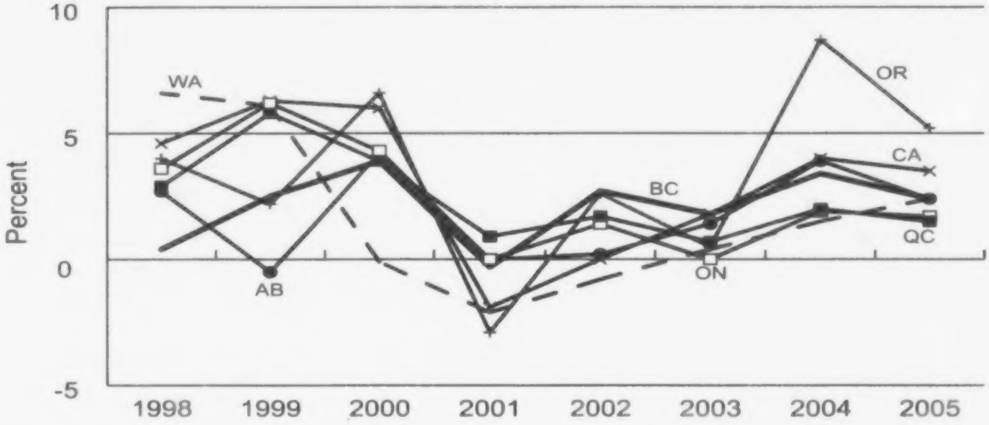
British Columbia posted the smallest gains in real GDP per capita between 1996 and 2005, but recorded the second highest growth among the provinces in 2004 and 2005. From 1996 to 2005, BC experienced average annual growth of 1.8%, compared to 2.0% in Alberta, 2.2% in Ontario and 4.6% in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In 2005, BC's level of real GDP per capita was fourth among provinces at $34,173, versus the Canadian average of $35,843. British Columbia's annual growth rate of real GDP per capita has been ahead of the national average since 2002. Before 2002, BC had not been ahead of the national average since 1993.

Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Economic Growth (Growth Rate of Real GDP Per Capita)

Growth Rate of Real GDP* Per Capita, Annual Percentage Change



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Description:

This indicator is a measure of the growth rate of goods and services produced per person in a province or state. It is employed as a measure of the relative change in the "standard of living" across geographic areas. Regions with higher growth rates of per capita GDP experience greater improvements in standard of living.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2002 1st	2003 1st**	2004 4th	2005 **3rd**
Period Progress Rank*	1993-2002 n/a	1994-2003 n/a	1995-2004 n/a	1998-2005 **5th**

How Does BC Compare?

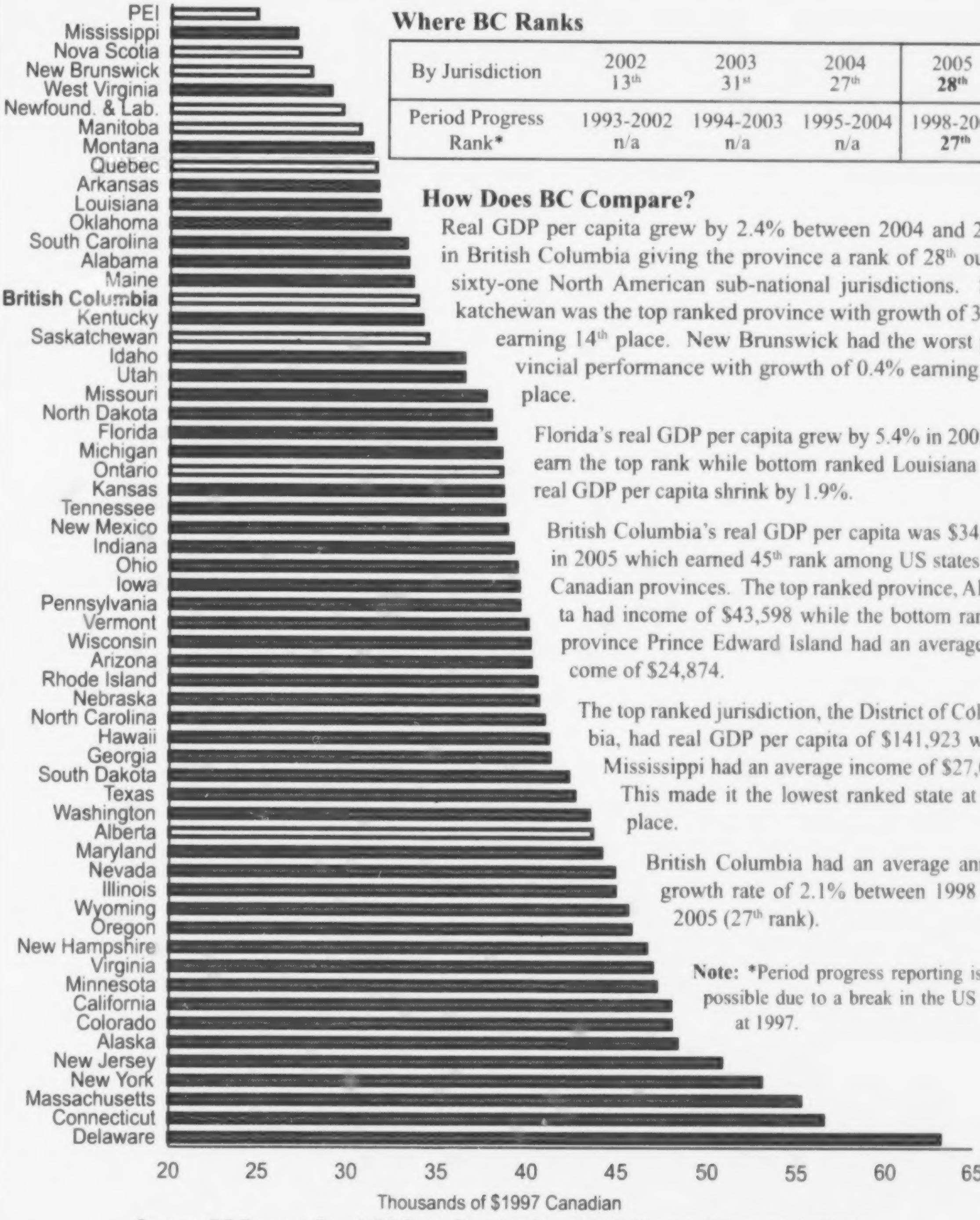
Real GDP per capita grew by 2.4% between 2004 and 2005 in British Columbia to earn BC the 3rd place rank. Two other jurisdictions, 4th ranked Washington and 5th ranked Alberta also saw growth of 2.5% between 2004 and 2005 but before rounding their growth was slightly lower than BC's. Oregon earned the top spot with 2004 to 2005 growth of 5.2%, followed by California at 3.5%.

Over the period 1998 to 2005, Oregon posted the best average year-to-year growth in real GDP per capita at 3.4%, followed by California at 3.0% and Quebec and Ontario at 2.4%.

Over the same period, Washington had the worst performance with average year-to-year growth in real GDP per capita of 1.8%, essentially tied with Alberta at 1.8% and bettered by British Columbia at 2.1%.

Note: *There is a discontinuity in the GSP time series at 1997, where the data change from SIC industry definitions to NAICS industry definitions. This data discontinuity affects both the levels and the growth rates of the GSP estimates. The figure covers 1998-2005 rather than 1995-2005 to reflect only NAICS based data. Period progress ranks are not reliable and are therefore not presented except for the shortened period 1998 through 2005. **Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Economic Growth (Growth Rate of Real GDP Per Capita)



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2002 13th	2003 31st	2004 27th	2005 **28th**
Period Progress Rank*	1993-2002 n/a	1994-2003 n/a	1995-2004 n/a	1998-2005 **27th**

How Does BC Compare?

Real GDP per capita grew by 2.4% between 2004 and 2005 in British Columbia giving the province a rank of 28th out of sixty-one North American sub-national jurisdictions. Saskatchewan was the top ranked province with growth of 3.6% earning 14th place. New Brunswick had the worst provincial performance with growth of 0.4% earning 56th place.

Florida's real GDP per capita grew by 5.4% in 2005, to earn the top rank while bottom ranked Louisiana saw real GDP per capita shrink by 1.9%.

British Columbia's real GDP per capita was $34,173 in 2005 which earned 45th rank among US states and Canadian provinces. The top ranked province, Alberta had income of $43,598 while the bottom ranked province Prince Edward Island had an average income of $24,874.

The top ranked jurisdiction, the District of Columbia, had real GDP per capita of $141,923 while Mississippi had an average income of $27,038. This made it the lowest ranked state at 60th place.

British Columbia had an average annual growth rate of 2.1% between 1998 and 2005 (27th rank).

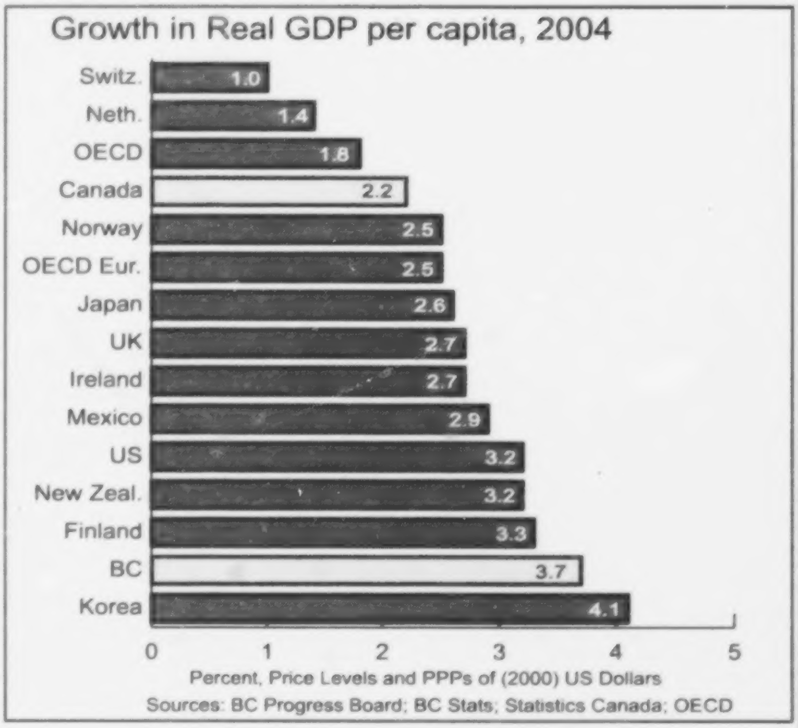
Note: *Period progress reporting is not possible due to a break in the US data at 1997.

Economic Growth

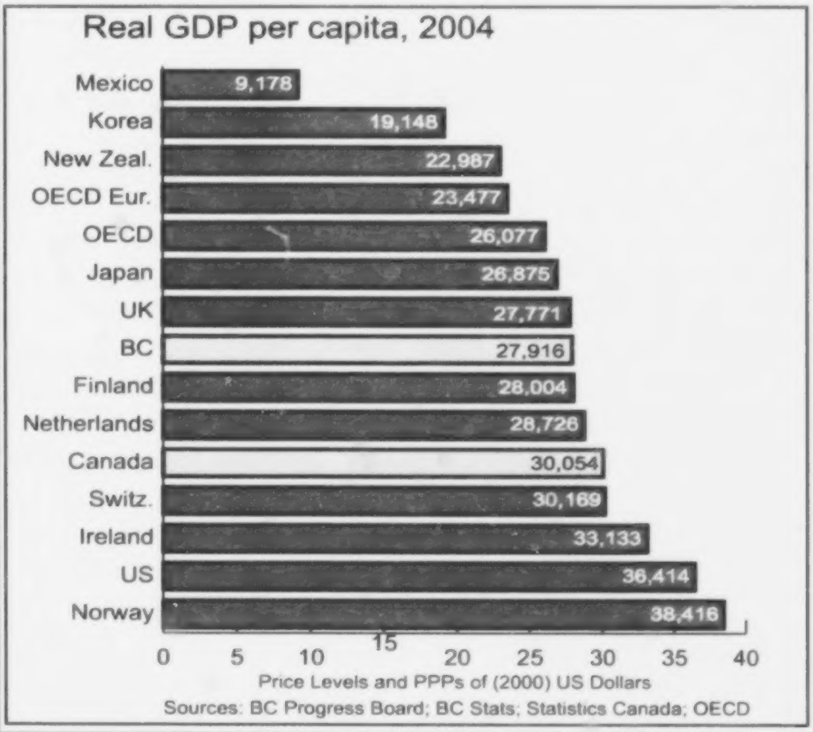
Description:
This indicator is a measure of the growth rate of goods and services produced per person in a jurisdiction. It is employed as a measure of the relative changes in "standard of living."

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia does not perform well on long-term real GDP per capita growth in comparison to OECD countries. BC ranked 27th out of 31 jurisdictions for average annual growth between 1985 and 2004 and 28th for average annual growth between 1995 and 2004. Average annual per capita growth in BC's real GDP was 1.60% between 1985 and 2004 compared to 5.85% for number one ranked South Korea, 0.81% for last place Mexico, and 1.88% for the OECD as a whole. In 2004, BC ranked 14th on the level of real per capita GDP among OECD countries, and 9th for growth between 2003 and 2004.



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Canada ranked higher than BC on the 2004 level of real GDP per capita (7th) but ranked below BC on growth in real GDP per capita (20th). Canada ranked 22nd for average annual growth between 1985 and 2004 and 17th between 1995 and 2004. Average annual per capita growth in Canada's real GDP was 1.79% between 1985 and 2004 and 2.32% between 1995 and 2004.

Turning to Canada's main trading partner, the **United States** had the third highest level of real GDP per capita in 2004 behind Luxembourg* and Norway. The US ranked 17th for growth in real per capita GDP between 1985 and 2004 and 21st for

Continued on following page.

Economic Growth (continued)

growth between 1995 and 2004.

Ireland and **South Korea** both exhibited extremely strong growth rates although Ireland's real GDP per capita was 73.0% higher than South Korea's in 2004. South Korea's real GDP per capita of $19,148 was ranked 23rd in 2004 while Ireland's $33,133 was ranked 4th. Ireland ranked 2nd for growth between 1985 and 2004 with average annual growth of 5.25%, and 1st between 1995 and 2004 with an average annual increase of 6.60%. South Korea had the top rank for GDP expansion between 1985 and 2004 with average annual growth of 5.85% and had the second best rank between 1995 and 2004 with an average annual increase of 4.27%.

Similar to the leading countries, the lagging countries, **Mexico** and **Switzerland**, have divergent levels of real per capita GDP. Mexico's real per capita GDP in 2004 was $9,178, ahead of only Turkey while Switzerland's real GDP per capita was the 6th highest among OECD countries at $30,169. However, both countries have exhibited weak economic growth over the last two decades. Switzerland's economy grew by 0.88% on average between 1985 and 2004 to earn it a 30th place rank and Mexico's grew by 0.81%.

Real GDP per capita (2000 price levels and PPPs - $US)

	Real GDP per capita, 2004	Rank for Real GDP per capita, 2004	Rank for 2003 - 2004 Growth	Average Annual Growth, 1985 - 2004	Rank for Average Annual Growth, 1985 - 2004	Average Annual Growth, 1995 - 2004	Rank for Average Annual Growth, 1995 - 2004
British Columbia	**27,916**	**14**	**9**	**1.60**	**27**	**1.29**	**28**
Canada	30,054	7	20	1.79	22	2.32	17
Finland	28,384	13	12	2.16	12	3.46	6
Ireland	32,958	4	17	5.38	2	6.87	1
Japan	26,502	18	19	1.99	18	0.94	30
Korea (South)	19,163	24	8	5.85	1	4.28	3
Mexico	9,178	30	14	0.81	31	1.19	29
Netherlands	28,957	12	25	2.10	14	2.18	19
New Zealand	22,942	21	16	1.26	28	2.13	20
Norway	38,416	2	18	2.43	9	2.46	16
Switzerland	30,386	6	26	0.92	30	0.82	31
United Kingdom	27,754	16	15	2.43	10	2.55	13
United States	36,239	3	13	2.00	17	2.08	21
OECD Europe	26,010	n/a	n/a	1.97	n/a	1.87	n/a
OECD Total	23,500	n/a	n/a	1.88	n/a	1.82	n/a

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Notes: The data discussed in this international comparison differ from that presented in the Canada and Canada-US comparisons because different currency and PPP exchange rates are used here. Previous editions of this report included adjustments to raw Canadian GDP data to match OECD definitions; this adjustment is no longer necessary as the OECD has changed their presentation. *Luxembourg is not highlighted as the number one jurisdiction because its per capita GDP is distorted by the fact that approximately 30% of its labour force lives outside the country.

Infrastructure, Market Connectivity and Economic Growth

Canada's all-government infrastructure shortfall has been estimated at $125 billion for 2003, rising to between $200 and $300 billion over the subsequent 20-25 years. Another recent estimate of Canada's local government infrastructure only shortfall put it at $57 billion in 2002, rising to $110 billion by 2027 in the absence of action. However, there are many recent federal and provincial initiatives across the country aimed at addressing Canada's infrastructure weaknesses.

The cost of infrastructure investments makes selecting the most effective and beneficial projects crucial. Of course, determining which infrastructure investments will be most effective in triggering economic growth and which have the highest return for investments of scarce public funds, is by no means a straightforward process. First, it is important to recognize the difference between the state or value of infrastructure from an economic versus an engineering standpoint. For example, a given roadway in disrepair may be a target for funds from an engineering perspective, but if the road is underutilized and provides little contribution to local industry or business its economic value is marginal.

Traditionally, infrastructure investments have been measured in engineering and maintenance terms, by their quality or state of upkeep, as well as by their ability to improve access and mobility. But as decision-makers increasingly attempt to find better ways to allocate funds this method can be extended one step further to determining whether or not improved access and mobility could influence job creation or business location decisions, improve productivity, enhance access to a potential workforce or other important inputs to the production process, or to increase quality of life in the region – all of which may have positive impacts on economic growth.

Even with an improved understanding of how infrastructure investments should be weighed, there is still no easy way to make such decisions. The process is inherently complex with severe measurement difficulties surrounding assessing the value of both new and existing capital stock, as well as evaluating the future impact on the economy. Added to these complications are the fact that timing and location will also weigh heavily on value calculations – an infrastructure investment that is valuable in one place or at one time is unlikely to have the same value under different circumstances.

Similarly, most infrastructure projects provide *space specific benefits*, with the value of the investment declining with distance from its location, or even having adverse effects on nearby jurisdictions should it displace private investment or change the spatial pattern of business development.

Regardless of these measurement difficulties, asking the right questions while looking at infrastructure investments from the point of view of their economic potential is an important part of ensuring that limited public funds are spent on those projects which will trigger the most economic growth and quality of life benefits for British Columbians.

The table on the following page provides a selection of useful capacity measures for given types of infrastructure, but is by no means exhaustive.

Sources (Infrastructure Statistics):
NetWork BC, April 2005;
Kelowna International Airport, September 2005;
Prince George Airport, August 2005;
Vancouver International Airport Authority, August 2005;
Victoria International Airport, August 2005;
Abbotsford International Airport, September 2005;
Canadian Pacific Railways, April 2005;
Canadian National Railways, September 2005;
Prince Rupert Port Authority, August 2005;
Vancouver Port Authority, November 2006;
GVRD (October 2004), Summary and Results of the 2003 Greater Vancouver Travel Time Survey;
BC Ministry of Transportation, September 2005;
Transport Canada (2004), Transportation in Canada 2004;
Duke Energy Gas Transmission, August 2004.

Sources (Publications): Richard H. Mattoon (2004), Infrastructure and State Economic Development, prepared for Statistics Canada, cat. #11F0024MIE; Mirza and Haider (2003), The State of Infrastructure in Canada: Implications for Infrastructure Planning and Policy, Department of Civil Engineering at McGill University; Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (2002), Critical Condition: Canada's Infrastructure at the Crossroads.

Notes: TEUs=twenty-foot equivalent units; Bcf=billion cubic feet.

Infrastructure Statistics	
Communications	
Broadband Access	58.7% of BC communities (215 of 366) had broadband services as of April 2005, representing 90% of BC's population.
Airport Facilities	
Kelowna - YLW	**Runway Capacity:** Increased by 3.87% - from 68,776 in 2004 to 71,438 in 2005. Capacity was higher than usual in 2003 due to forest fire activities. At 100% capacity during peak periods. **Terminal Capacity:** Increased by 20.58% - from 894,561 visits in 2004 to 1,078,652 visits in 2005.
Prince George - YXS	**Terminal Capacity:** New Transborder and International Arrivals Terminal expansions completed in April 2005. Capable of handling up to 400 passengers per hour with enhanced customs and security features. **Runway Capacity:** Runway is at capacity but currently under utilized for passenger aircraft movements. Currently, runway is lacking capacity to handle the larger cargo market. Phase 3 expansion proposed for 2005 will increase runway length to facilitate larger cargo aircraft.
Vancouver - YVR	**Airside Facility Utilization:** 275,164 runway aircraft movements in 2005 vs. annual runway capacity of over 400,000, 69% utilization rate up from 68% in 2004 and 63% in 2003. Overall utilization reached 81% in 1998/99 pre-industry rationalization. **Terminal Building Utilization:** 16.4 million passengers vs. 17 million capacity in 2005, 96% utilization up from 92% in 2004 and 83% in 2003. Prior to 2001 downturn, reached 94% utilization.
Victoria - YYJ	**Runway Capacity:** Not currently measured, no foreseen capacity problems. **Terminal Capacity:** Approximately 60% utilization in 2004 with 1.35 million passengers vs. roughly 2 million overall capacity. Departures terminal expansion was completed in 2006.
Abbotsford - YXX	**Runway Capacity:** Approximately 153,217 movements in 2005, up 9.4% from 2004. **Terminal Capacity:** Approximately 372,060 passengers in 2005, up approximately 5.7% from 2004.
Rail Facilities	
Canadian Pacific Railways	**Rail/ Freight Capacity:** Expansion to the Western Canada Corridor to be completed in the fall should increase capacity by 12 percent or more than 400 freight cars per day.
Canadian National Railways	**Rail Yard & Interchange Capacity:** Access agreements with other rail carriers to improve the orderly flow of rail traffic throughput in BC. Increased train capacity for overseas containers moving between the Port of Vancouver and Montreal and Toronto by more than 20% while boosting capacity for domestic container moves between Toronto and Montreal and major Western Canada centres by more than 10%.
Port Facilities	
Prince Rupert Port Authority	**Freight Terminal Capacity:** Approximately 4.5 million tonnes processed in 2005, up from 4.4 M in 2004, 4.3 M in 2003, 4.54 M in 2002 and 13 million in 1998. Phase I container terminal construction, to be completed in Summer 2006, will increase throughput capacity to 500,000 TEU. Phase II began in 2006 and will be completed in 2010. Throughput capacity will increase to 2 million TEUs. **Cruise Terminal Capacity:** New Northland Cruise Terminal completed April 2004. Utilization was 62,845 passengers in 2006, compared to 98,000 in 2005, 61,385 in 2004 from 4,500 in 2003, with a capacity of approximately 280,000 passengers.
Vancouver Port Authority	**Container Capacity:** Near capacity in 2005 with 1.77 million TEUs, 6% growth over 2004. Facility expansion underway for potential 5.383 million TEUs by 2020. **Cruise Capacity:** Near capacity during peak times/weekends with 858,500 revenue passengers in 2006, representing a 6% decrease from 910,172 passengers in 2005. The Port of Vancouver is projecting an increase of 100,000 passengers in 2007.
Roadways	
GVRD	**Congestion:** Congestion is defined by the Regional Congestion Indicator which is described as Average Survey Travel Speed divided by Free-Flow Speed. The 2003 RCI indices show AM peak at 0.70, mid-day at 0.78, PM peak at 0.65, and Saturday mid-day at 0.74. The RCI may be interpreted as the value approaches 1.0, the average speed approaches speeds equal to free-flow (non-congested) speeds. Therefore, the data showing the most "congested" time period is PM peak (RCI=0.65), followed by the AM peak (RCI=0.70), Saturday mid-day (RCI=0.74), and weekday mid-day (RCI=0.78).
Regional BC	**Congestion:** 14.9% of urban vehicle kilometers traveled in congested conditions. Up from 14.6% in 2004 and 13.4% in 2003.
Borders	
BC – US Crossings	**Delay and Queue lengths:** Wait times varied at the Pacific Hwy crossing (#15) with the longest waits during holidays. Pacific Hwy processed $13.9B of the $36.8B value of goods crossing the BC-US border in 2005. Transport Canada estimates a shift to rail from roads for trade movements. Transport Canada indicated that in 2005, "trucking accounted for 60 percent of trade with the United States, rail 17 percent, pipeline 11 percent, air six percent and marine three percent. The comparable figure in 2003 for roads [trucking] was 66%.
Pipelines	
Duke Energy Gas Transmission	**BC Pipeline & Field Services System deliveries:** The DEGT Pipeline System accounts for 85% of BC's natural gas consumption. Total volume of gas delivered through the system was 652 Bcf in 2004 compared to 638 Bcf in 2003. Of the total throughput in 2004, 49% consisted of deliveries to BC's domestic market.

Infrastructure Debt and Deficit

What Is It?

The infrastructure gap is a pressing issue that must be addressed in the coming years if Canada wishes to preserve its competitiveness. In addition to being an important economic driver, infrastructure is also an essential component in preserving the quality of life for the public. Properly maintained transportation systems afford the efficient delivery of goods, services and resources, while allowing people to navigate safely through cities and provinces. In general, an infrastructure deficit results when expenditures do not keep up with what is required to meet expected needs. The accumulation of such annual deficits has resulted in an 'infrastructure debt', the backlog of unmet construction and maintenance needs, which is also what is commonly referred to as the infrastructure gap.

Related BC Progress Board Research

For a strategic overview of challenges and opportunities in BC's transportation systems see the December 16, 2004 BC Progress Board publication **Transportation as an Economic Growth Engine: Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Suggestions**. The report underscores the broader "national" and "provincial interest" in building British Columbia as an integrated, multi-modal and globally-oriented transportation hub for all of Canada and contains 25 policy suggestions for federal and provincial authorities that might strengthen transportation as a facilitator of economic growth and development in British Columbia. See: www.bcprogressboard.com.

How Big Is It?

Due to inconsistency in defining infrastructure, the actual size of the gap remains unclear. Statistics Canada only considers 'civil engineering works' – items such as highways and roads, bridges and sanitary sewers – as public infrastructure, while in other studies infrastructure also constitutes public buildings as well as items that provide social services such as daycares and libraries. The inability to produce reliable estimates is also due to differing methodologies employed in various studies. For instance, in one major study by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and McGill University, surveys were sent to 589 different municipalities in order to quantify infrastructure needs. In contrast, an analysis by the Canada West Foundation (CWF) employed data obtained through extensive review of capital plans and financial reports of cities as well as national expenditure patterns. Such inconsistency has resulted in a wide range of estimates for the infrastructure gap. For example, the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) reported the municipal infrastructure debt – representing 70 percent of total infrastructure in Canada – to be approximately $57 billion in 2002. Mirza and Haider (2003) on the other hand, estimated the total Canadian infrastructure gap at $125 billion with the potential to increase to $200 to $300 billion by 2020.

What Caused It?

A primary cause for the debt in national infrastructure is the spending paralysis that occurred in the 1980s and 1990s. Mounting fiscal deficits forced federal and provincial governments to reduce capital spending. Fiscal pressure was perhaps most strongly felt at the municipal level as transfer payments were reduced, while at the same time many traditional federal and provincial responsibilities were offloaded to municipalities. The burden on municipalities was exacerbated by rapid population growth, accelerating the decay of municipal infrastructure built 30-40 years ago, most of which was approaching the end of its expected useful life. Furthermore, when government funding was available, it tended to be heavily concentrated on construction rather than on the maintenance and renewal of existing infrastructure assets. This was partially caused by the lack of a national inventory, preventing the systematic evaluation of infrastructure needs and the allocation of funds to projects that were required the most.

Infrastructure Debt and Deficit (Continued)

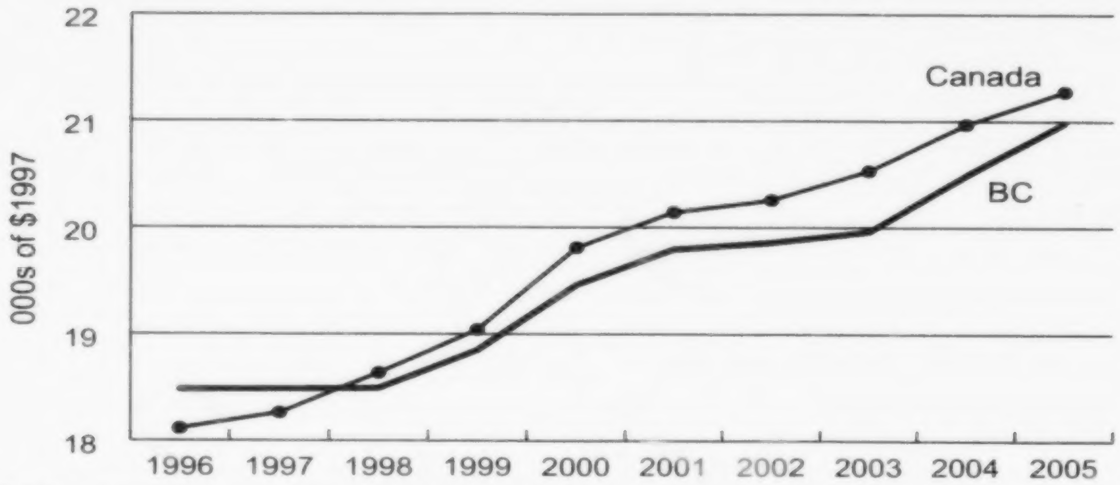
What to Do About It?

The national infrastructure debt is a complex problem. A range of policies should be considered and experimented with in the search of the best overall outcome. Some contemporary options available include the following:

- Adoption of ‘user-pay” model – Charging fees based on usage is not a new concept and has been adopted selectively across Canada and used widely in the U.S., Europe and Asia. In some cases, a user-pay model is effective because it permits some or all costs to be passed directly on to consumers and allow the government to raise the required revenue to finance the particular piece of infrastructure without increasing the overall tax burden.
- Strengthen revenue-raising ability of municipalities – As the majority of Canada's infrastructure is located in urban centres, it is particularly important for municipalities to increase their revenue-raising capacity beyond property taxes. This alternative would not only induce local government to be accountable for infrastructure-related decisions, but also allow them to focus on municipal needs without having to worry about fiscal arrangements decided at the provincial and federal level. In a report by TD Economics, it is suggested that one means of achieving this is for provincial and federal governments to reduce some of their existing taxes and transfer the additional ‘tax room’ to municipalities.
- More efficient use of municipal debt – In addition to transfer payments from provincial and federal governments, municipalities could also make efficient use of their ability to borrow. Issuing municipal debt is more effective than relying of provincial and federal grants in a number of ways. First, it provides financing in a timely manner so that infrastructure construction or maintenance can take place immediately. Second, debt financing is more equitable because repayment occurs over the useful life of the asset so that both current and future users are responsible for the costs. In contrast, provincial and federal grants are financed through taxes imposed only on users in the current generation. The problem with debt financing is that many communities are too small to be rated while others have a poor credit rating. To overcome this, provincial governments can form a single centralized agency responsible for borrowing on behalf of their respective municipalities.
- Increase involvement of private sector – As previously discussed, one of the factors that caused the large gap in infrastructure was the lack of funding by government due to fiscal pressure. Allowing the business sector to participate in selected infrastructure projects could relieve the financial burden of governments and channel-in private investment capital. Recently, the use of public-private partnerships (P3s) has gained popularity as a means to deliver public goods. Some of the benefits embedded in the P3 approach include: freeing-up government resources, leveraging private-sector expertise and economies of scale, and improved risk allocation.

Sources: Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Department of Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics, McGill University (1996) Report of the State of Municipal Infrastructure in Canada; Canada West Foundation (2003) A Capital Question: Infrastructure in Western Canada's Big Six; Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (2002) Critical Condition: Canada's Infrastructure at the Crossroads; Mirza and Haider, Department of Civil Engineering at McGill University (2003) The State of Infrastructure in Canada: Implications for Infrastructure Planning and Policy.

Real Personal Disposable Income per capita, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada.

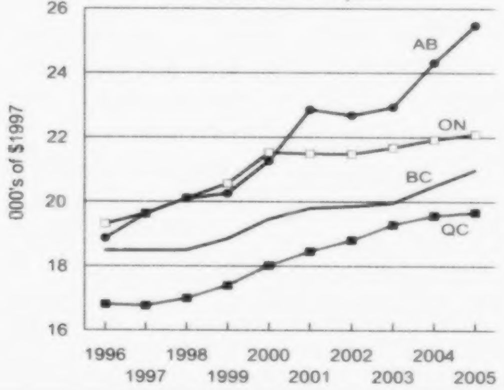
Description

Real personal disposable income per capita represents total income minus certain taxes paid to all levels of government (e.g., income taxes, contributions to social security, etc.) and various fees such as medical insurance premiums, measured in 1997 dollars and expressed on a per person basis. It includes income earned by all residents of the province, regardless of where it originated.

Why it's Important

Real personal disposable income per capita provides an indication of an individuals' spending power and standard of living.

Provinces - Real Personal Disposable Income Per Capita



Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 3rd	2003 3rd	2004 3rd	**2005 3rd**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 7th*	2002-2003 8th	2003-2004 4th*	2004-2005 **2nd**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 10th	1996-2005 **9th**

How Does BC Compare?

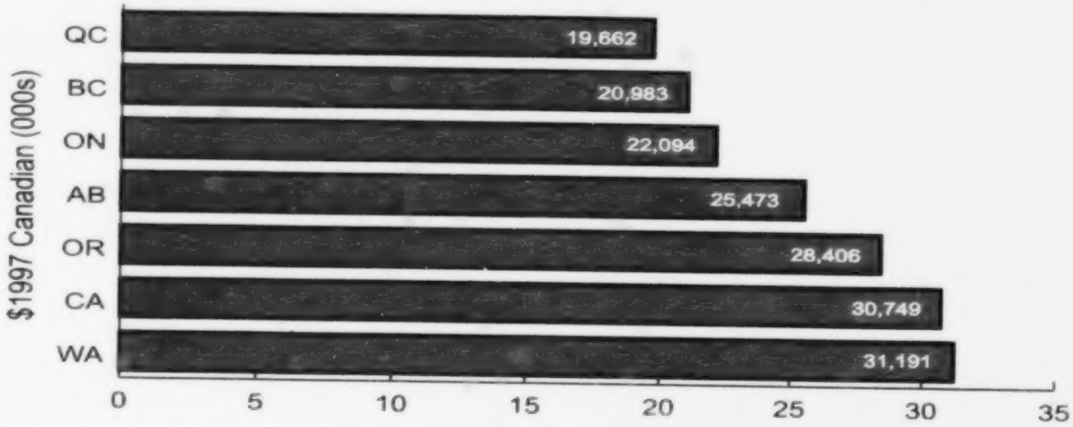
In 2005, British Columbia had the third highest real personal disposable income per capita in Canada at $20,983, up $494 (2.4%) from 2004. Incomes in Alberta were only $385 higher than in BC in 1996, but by 2005 Alberta enjoyed a $4,490 lead over BC. In 1996, BC's real personal disposable income per capita was $366 above the Canadian average of $18,114. British Columbia was also above the national average in 1997 but began to fall behind in 1998. BC was $145 below the average in 1998 and by 2003 it was $571 below the average. After widening from 1999 through 2003 the gap shrank to $479 in 2004 and to $293 in 2005.

BC had the second smallest increase among the provinces in real personal disposable income per capita (13.5%) between 1996 and 2005. Two provinces (Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador) had growth above 22.0% over this time period.

Related BC Progress Board Research

See the November 9, 2005 BC Progress Board publication **Strategic Imperatives for British Columbia's Energy Future** for a survey of BC's current energy situation, including the role of energy in raising BC's standard of living.

Standard of Living


Real Personal Disposable Income Per Capita, $1997

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis: US Census Bureau.

Description:

This indicator is a measure of the amount of income earned from various sources by persons after the payment of direct taxes and social insurance contributions to governments. This measure is adjusted for inflation, so it captures changes in the purchasing power of income over time.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2002 6th	2003 6th	2004 6th	2005 **6th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 5th	2002-2003 4th	2003-2004 4th*	2004-2003 2nd
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 7th	1994-2003 7th	1995-2004 7th	1996-2005 **7th**

Real Per Capita Personal Disposable Income, Average Annual Growth for 1996-2005		
	$1997 Canadian	Percent
Quebec	283	1.6
Ontario	237	1.2
Alberta	643	3.0
British Columbia	215	1.1
California	403	1.4
Oregon	337	1.3
Washington	388	1.4

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia ranked second to last on this indicator in 2005. Of the provinces, Ontario and Alberta generally have had the highest real personal disposable per capita incomes. In 2005, Alberta had the highest real personal disposable income per capita among the provinces at $25,473. Alberta was followed by Ontario at $22,094 and BC at $20,983. British Columbia's real personal disposable income per capita grew by 13.5% from $18,480 in 1996 to $20,983 in 2005. The other jurisdictions had increases ranging from 12.6% (Washington and Oregon) to 35.0% (Alberta).

Residents of California, Washington, and Oregon have much higher real personal disposable incomes than Canadians, although incomes in Alberta make it look more like a state than a province. These states have an overall lower tax burden and incomes are higher in the US than in Canada. The gap in real personal disposable income per capita between BC and the states reviewed ranges from $7,423 (Oregon) to $10,208 (Washington State).

Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

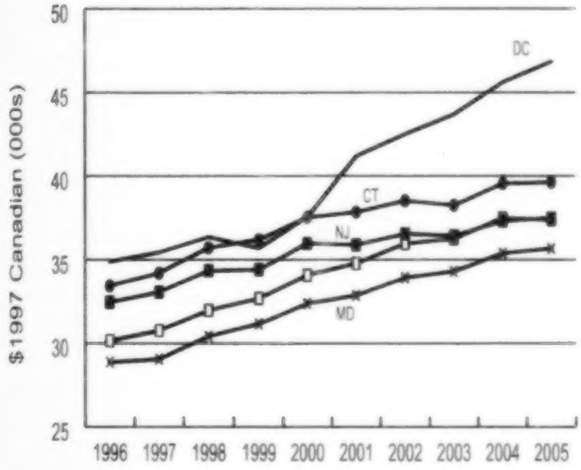
Standard of Living

How Does BC Compare?

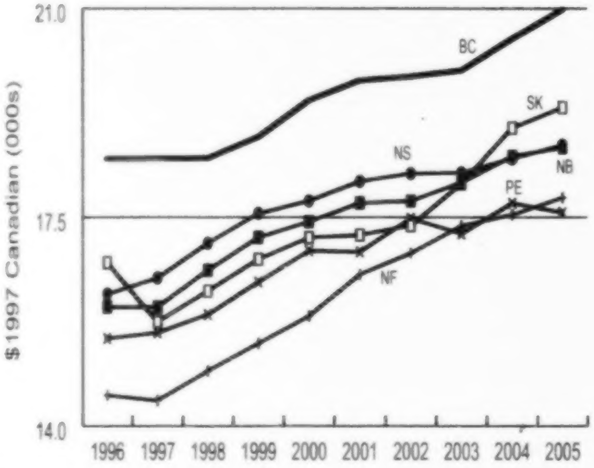
British Columbia ranked 54th among the 61 subnational jurisdictions on this indicator in 2005. The top five jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their $1997 Canadian incomes for 2005 were: District of Columbia ($46,840), Connecticut ($39,615), New Jersey ($37,476) Massachusetts ($37,372) and Maryland ($35,663).

The bottom five jurisdictions were: Nova Scotia ($18,711), New Brunswick ($18,671), Saskatchewan ($19,341), Prince Edward Island ($17,579) and Newfoundland & Labrador ($17,827).

Real Personal Disposable Income Per Capita, $1997
Top Five Jurisdictions in North America



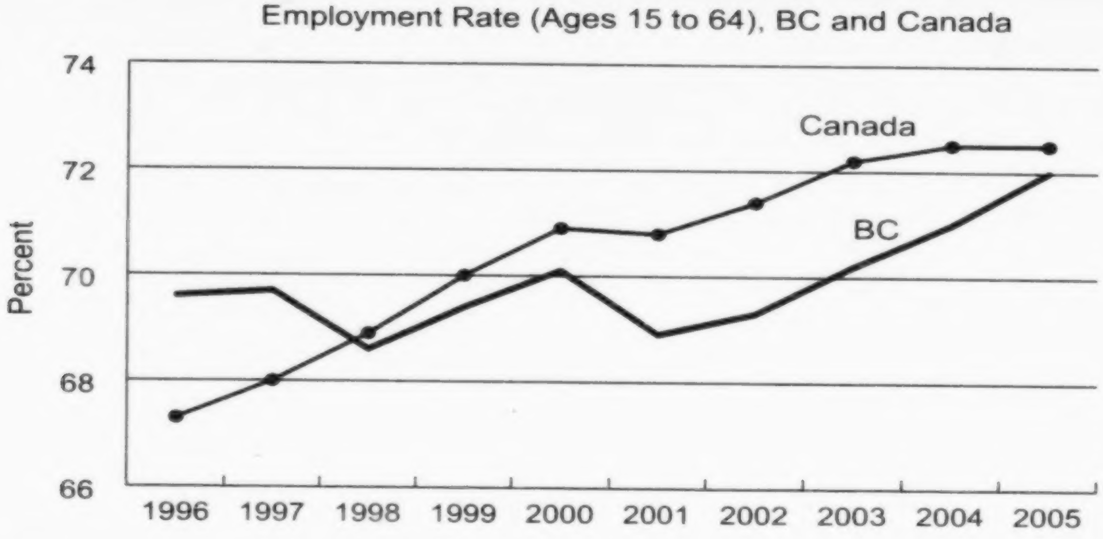
Real Personal Disposable Income Per Capita, $1997
BC and the Bottom Five Jurisdictions in North America



Real Per Capita Personal Disposable Income ($1997 Canadian)

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2005	2005 rank	1998 - 2005 Average	Rank for 1998 - 2005 Average
District of Columbia	34,142	35,099	35,429	37,549	46,840	1	41,171	1
Connecticut	32,865	33,260	34,185	37,520	39,615	2	37,894	2
New Jersey	30,837	31,208	33,055	35,977	37,476	4	36,038	3
Massachusetts	28,806	29,565	30,750	34,067	37,372	3	35,061	4
Maryland	28,613	28,842	29,050	32,369	35,663	5	33,252	5
British Columbia	**19,583**	**18,837**	**18,484**	**19,459**	**20,983**	**54**	**19,735**	**54**
Nova Scotia	16,260	16,292	16,480	17,772	18,711	59	18,021	57
New Brunswick	15,291	15,643	15,991	17,423	18,671	58	17,747	58
Saskatchewan	16,053	15,309	15,745	17,155	19,341	57	17,645	59
Prince Edward Island	15,480	15,576	15,561	16,935	17,579	60	17,018	60
Newfoundland & Labrador	14,154	14,494	14,426	15,839	17,827	61	16,537	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis



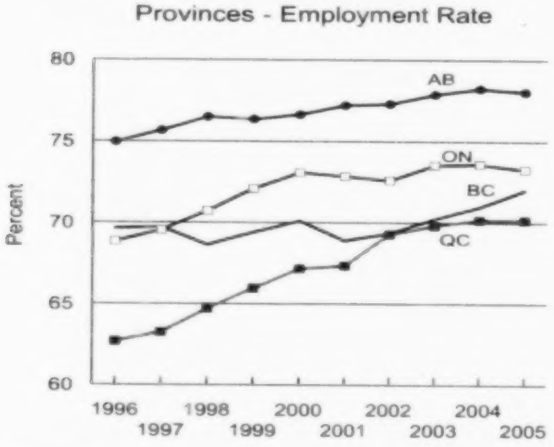
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator shows, for the population aged 15 to 64 years, the number of employed persons (i.e., working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business) expressed as a percentage of the total.

Why it's Important

The employment rate is an effective measure of the rate of labour utilization. Higher labour utilization traditionally accompanies strong economic activity.



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 6th*	2003 6th	2004 5th	2005 **5th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 8th	2002-2003 6th*	2003-2004 3rd*	2004-2005 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 10th	1996-2005 **10th**

How Does BC Compare?

From 1996 to 2005, BC consistently stayed in the mid-range for the employment rate in Canada.

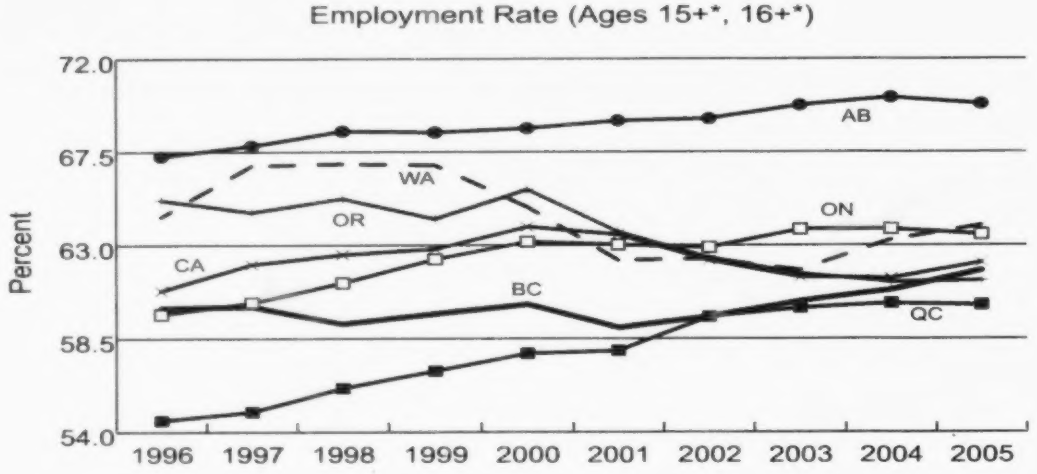
The Canadian average in 2005 was 72.5%, compared to 78.0% in Alberta and 73.3% in Ontario. In 2005, BC lagged behind the leading provinces with an employment rate of 72.0%, placing it fifth overall in Canada.

Until 1998, BC had an above average employment rate within Canada, but it has lagged since. However, due to robust year over year job growth the gap has shrunk from 2.1% in 2002 to 0.5% in 2005.

BC created 85 percent as many jobs as Ontario in 2005 on a population base that is only one-third as large. On a per capita basis BC created the most jobs in the country in 2005.

Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Jobs



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Description:

The employment rate is the percentage of people aged 16 and older that are employed in a jurisdiction. This indicator is a general measure of the ability of a jurisdiction to create work for its population, as well as the desire of its population to participate in the labour force. The latter desire is influenced by such factors as the age distribution of the population and after-tax earnings from work, while the ability to create work is determined by the relative cost of labour and the output performance of the economy.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 6th**	2003 6th	2004 6th	2005 **5th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 2nd	2002-2003 2nd**	2003-2004 2nd	2004-2005 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 6th**	1994-2003 5th	1995-2004 6th	1996-2005 **5th**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia missed out on the improvement experienced in California, Ontario, and Quebec in the late 1990s but has seen improvement in recent years. Over the last decade, the employment rate in BC has remained relatively constant through 2002, while in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta the rate trended upward. British Columbia's rate improved by at least 0.9 percentage points in every year from 2002 through 2005 due to robust year over year job growth.

Notes: *Government statistical agencies in Canada and the United States use different measures of the employment rate. For this comparison people aged 15 years and over in Canada are included for both population and employment, while in the United States people aged 16 years and over are included. While this small difference will have some impact on comparisons between the countries, it is unlikely to result in significant differences, other things being equal. The statistical models used for developing statewide LAUS estimates have been replaced with new, third-generation models, featuring real-time benchmarking to monthly national Current Population Survey (CPS) employment and unemployment totals. **Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

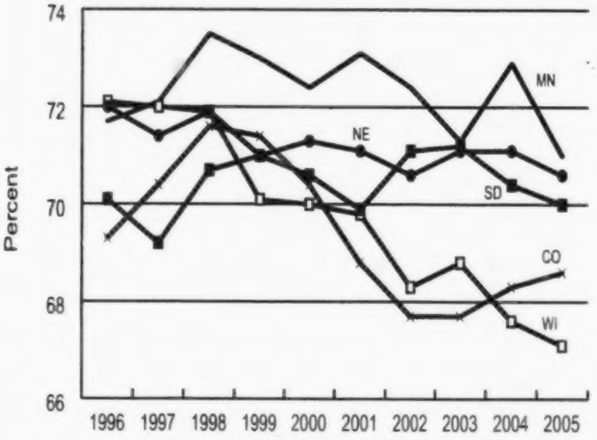
Jobs

How Does BC Compare?

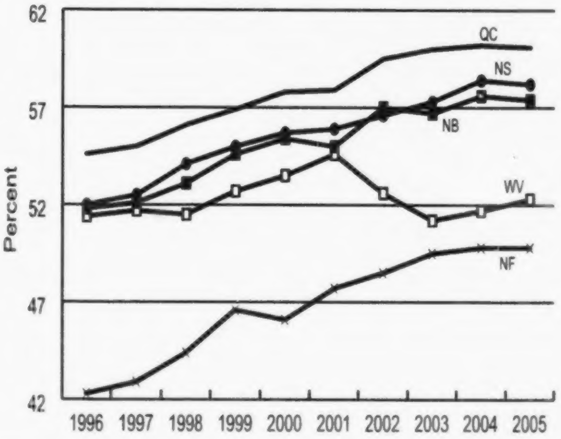
British Columbia ranked 40th among the 61 subnational jurisdictions on this indicator in 2005. The top five jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their 2005 employment rates were: Minnesota (71.0%), Nebraska (70.6%), South Dakota (70.0%), Wisconsin (67.1%), and Colorado (68.6%).

The bottom five jurisdictions were: Quebec (60.1%), Nova Scotia (58.2%), New Brunswick (57.4%), West Virginia (52.3%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (49.8%).

Employment Rate (15+*, 16+*)
Top Five Jurisdictions in North America



Employment Rate (Ages 15+*, 16+*)
Bottom Five Jurisdictions in North America



Employment to Population Ratio (ages 15+, 16+)

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2005 Rank	1996 - 2005 Average	Rank for 1996 - 2005 Average
Minnesota	69.4	72.5	72.4	71.0	1	72.3	1
Nebraska	68.6	72.0	71.3	70.6	2	71.2	2
South Dakota	66.7	69.9	70.6	70.0	3	70.4	3
Wisconsin	67.1	71.0	70.0	67.1	12	69.8	4
Colorado	67.4	70.7	70.4	68.6	6	69.4	5
British Columbia	**61.3**	**60.6**	**60.2**	**61.8**	**40**	**60.1**	**47**
Quebec	57.5	55.1	57.8	60.1	49	57.8	57
Nova Scotia	55.3	52.2	55.7	58.2	56	55.6	58
New Brunswick	52.8	52.4	55.4	57.4	58	55.1	59
West Virginia	49.8	50.0	53.5	52.3	60	52.3	60
Newfoundland & Labrador	47.0	43.5	46.1	49.8	61	46.8	61

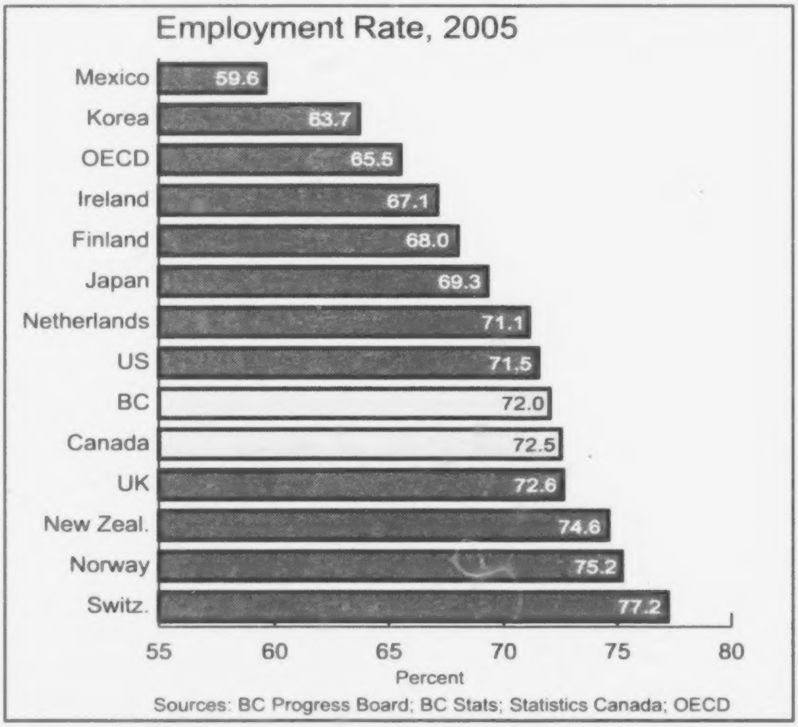
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Notes: *For this comparison, people aged 15 years and over in Canada are included for both population and employment, while in the United States people aged 16 years and over are included.

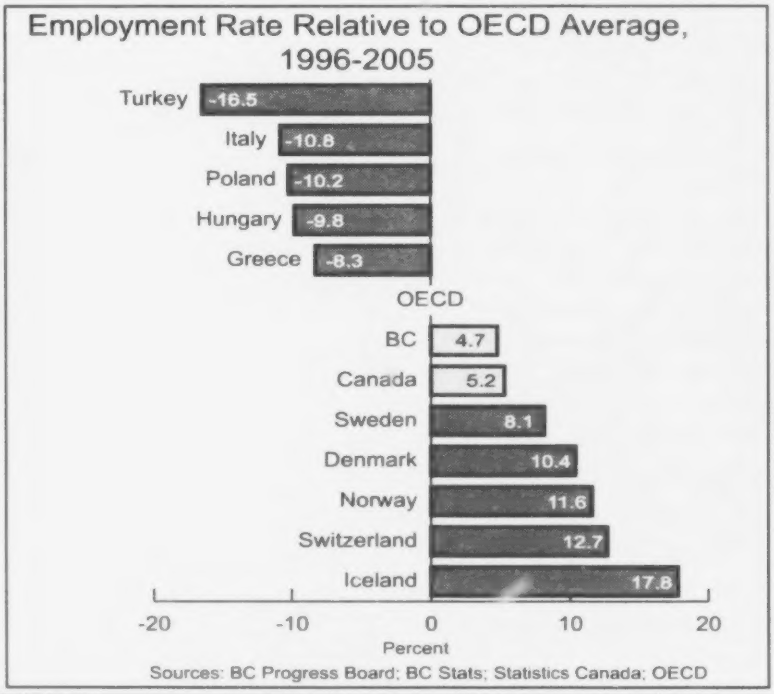
Jobs (Employment Rate - for those aged 15-64)

Description:
This indicator shows, for the population aged 15 to 64 years, the number of employed persons (i.e., working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business) expressed as a percentage of the total.

How Does BC Compare?
British Columbia has relatively high employment when compared to OECD countries. In 2005, BC ranked 9th out of 31 jurisdictions with an employment to population ratio (ages 15-64) of 72.0%. British Columbia's ratio was below top ranked Iceland (84.4%) and well above bottom ranked Turkey (45.9%). British Columbia ranked 11th for the average ratio over the period 1996 through 2005.


Employment Rate, 2005

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD


Employment Rate Relative to OECD Average, 1996-2005

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

British Columbia's ratio increased by 1.5% between 2004 and 2005 placing it in the strong range with an 8th place rank for annual growth. Average annual growth in the employment to population ratio between 1996 and 2005 in BC was 0.2%, earning a 21st place rank.

Canada ranked 8th in 2005 with an employment to population ratio of 72.5%; its 1996-2005 average of 70.5% earned it a 10th place rank. Canada's employment to population ratio did not change between 2004 and 2005 for a 22nd place rank. Canada had 0.7% growth, on average, between 1996 and 2005 earning 10th place rank.

The employment to population ratio in the **United States** was 71.5% in 2005 earning it an 11th place rank. The 1996-2005 average ratio of 72.7%

Continued on following page.

Jobs (cont.)

in the US placed it 6th overall. The US employment to population ratio grew by 0.4% between 2004 and 2005 for an 18th place rank. On average, annual growth in the US ratio between 1996 and 2005 was slightly negative which placed it 27th.

Iceland's 84.4% was the highest 2005 employment to population ratio, followed by **Switzerland** at 77.2% and **Denmark** at 75.5%. Iceland, Switzerland and Norway had the highest 1995-2004 average ratios at 83.0%, 77.9% and 76.8%, respectively. Switzerland's ratio fell by 0.3% (26th rank) between 2004 and 2005, Iceland's increased by 1.9% (4th rank) and Norway's fell by 0.5% (29th rank). Iceland had 0.5% annual average growth in the employment to population ratio over 1996 through 2005 (15th rank); Switzerland had a 0.1% increase, on average (23rd rank); Norway had 0.2% average annual growth (19th rank).

South Korea's employment to population ratio was relatively low in 2005 at 63.7%, earning it the 21st rank; South Korea's 1996-2005 average ratio was a 20th ranked 62.3%. **Mexico**'s 2005 ratio of 59.6% was also relatively low and earned a 26th place rank; Mexico's 1996-2005 average ratio was a 23rd ranked 60.4%.

At 67.1%, **Ireland** had the 17th ranked employment to population ratio in 2005, but it had strong growth in the mid to late 1990s. Ireland's ratio increased by 2.5% between 2004 and 2005 (2nd rank), and increased by 2.2% each year, on average, between 1996 and 2005. This average annual growth was second-best in the OECD, behind Spain at 2.9% average annual growth.

Employment to Population Ratio (for those aged 15-64)

	Employment to Population, 2005, percent	Rank for Employment to Population, 2005 (of 31)	2004-2005 Change in Employment to Population, percent	Rank for 2004-2005 Change in Employment to Population (of 31)	Average Annual Growth, 1996 - 2005, percent	Rank for Average Annual Growth, 1996 - 2005 (of 31)
British Columbia	**72.0**	**9**	**1.5**	**8**	**0.2**	**21**
Canada	72.5	8	(0.0)	22	0.7	10
Finland	68.0	15	1.2	11	1.1	4
Ireland	67.1	17	2.5	2	2.2	2
Japan	69.3	13	0.9	15	0.0	25
Korea (South)	63.7	21	0.2	20	0.1	24
Mexico	59.6	26	(2.0)	31	0.3	17
Netherlands	71.1	12	(0.2)	25	0.9	6
New Zealand	74.6	5	1.5	7	0.6	12
Norway	75.2	4	(0.5)	29	0.2	19
Switzerland	77.2	2	(0.3)	26	0.1	23
United Kingdom	72.6	7	(0.1)	23	0.5	16
United States	71.5	11	0.4	18	(0.1)	27
OECD	65.5	n/a	0.4	n/a	0.2	n/a

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Historical Comparison

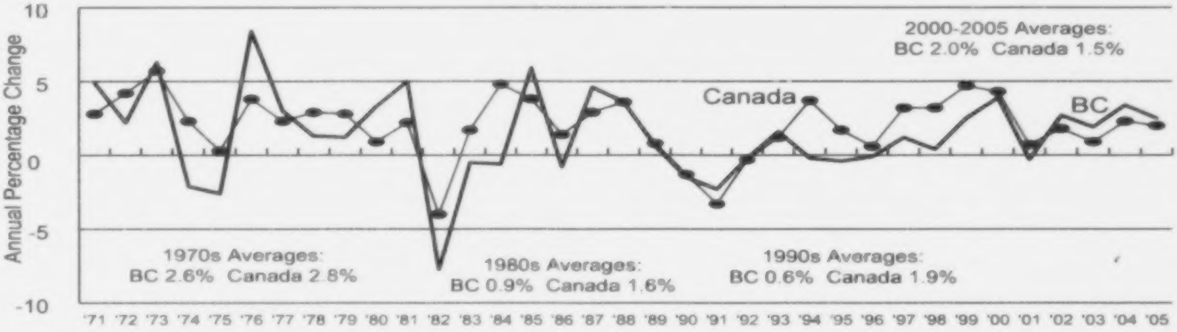
Description:

These figures illustrate data from 1971 through 2005 for the first three Core Targets: economic growth, standard of living, and jobs. Two interesting facts are revealed in this long-term analysis. First, BC's performance on growth in real GDP per capita and real personal disposable income per capita deteriorated in the 1980s, and was especially weak in the 1990s. Second, BC's performance has been especially weak relative to the national average on these two core indicators, though importantly BC has been ahead of the national average for growth in real GDP per capita since 2002 and BC's real PDI grew faster than the national average in 2004 and 2005. Taken together, this presentation suggests BC experienced a long period of structural decline, though there is noteworthy improvement in recent years. The last time BC was ahead of the national average on both of these important indicators was 1987.

Core Target 1: Economic Growth

Average annual growth in real GDP per capita in BC was 2.6% during the 1970s, 0.9% in the 1980s and 0.6% in the 1990s. In 1970, BC's real GDP per capita was $20,906. It grew by 28.6% to $26,886 in 1980, declined by 1.5% to $29,088 in 1990, grew by 6.5% to $30,983 in 2000 and grew by 10.4% to $34,199 in 2005.

Growth Rate of Real GDP (Chained $1997) Per Capita for BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

British Columbia's average annual growth was 93.1% of Canada's in the 1970s, 54.2% in the 1980s, 34.1% in the 1990s, and so far this decade, has been 30.8% higher than the Canadian average. In 1970, BC real per capita GDP was $3,457 higher than the Canadian level. The difference was roughly the same ($3,232) in 1980, but had fallen to $1,457 by 1990. The BC advantage fell to $11 in 1996 and then turned negative to such a degree that BC's real GDP per capita was $2,608 below the national average in 2001, although the gap has narrowed by $932 to $1,676 in 2005 following better than national average BC growth in every year since 2002.

Core Target 2: Standard of Living

Average annual growth in real PDI per capita in BC was 5.2% during the 1970s, 0.6% in the 1980s, negative 0.4% in the 1990s, and 1.5% between 2000 and 2005. In 1970, BC's real PDI per capita was $11,596. It grew by 66.1% to $19,261 in 1980, a further 5.3% to $20,274 in 1990, shrank by 4.0% to $19,459 in 2000, and grew by 7.8% to $20,983 in 2005.

British Columbia's average annual growth in real PDI per capita was 31.6% greater than Canada's average annual growth in the 1970s, was only 46.1% of Canada's average annual growth in the 1980s and shrank during the 1990s. British Columbia's average growth has been 5.9% higher than the national average so far this decade.

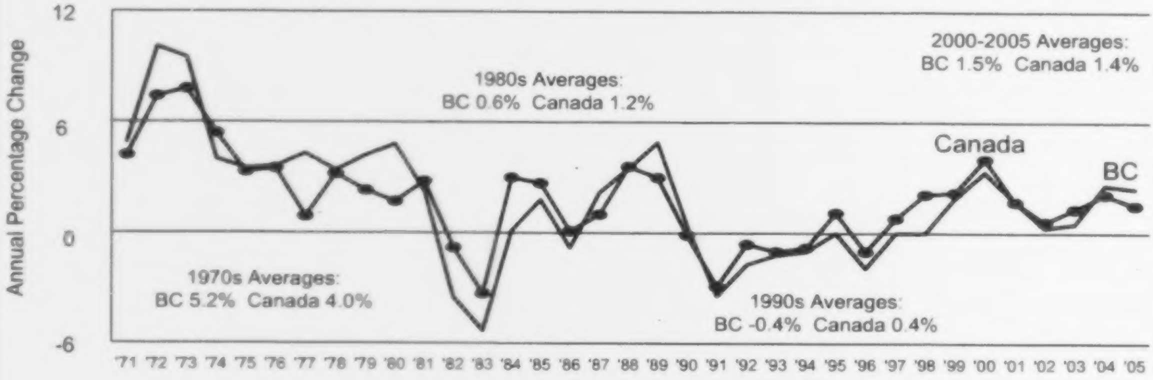
In 1970, BC real PDI per capita ($11,596) was essentially the same as the Canadian level ($11,498). British

Continued on following page.

Historical Comparison (continued)

Columbia had strong growth in real PDI per capita in the 1970s and the $98 difference present in 1970 grew to $2,318 by 1980. This shrank to $1,204 by 1990 and to $222 in 1997. From 1998 through 2004 BC's real PDI per capita was below the Canadian average and the gap grew such that BC's level was $571 below the national average in 2003. The gap shrank to $479 in 2004 and to $293 in 2005 due to strong economic growth in BC.

Growth Rate of Real PDI ($1997) Per Capita for BC and Canada



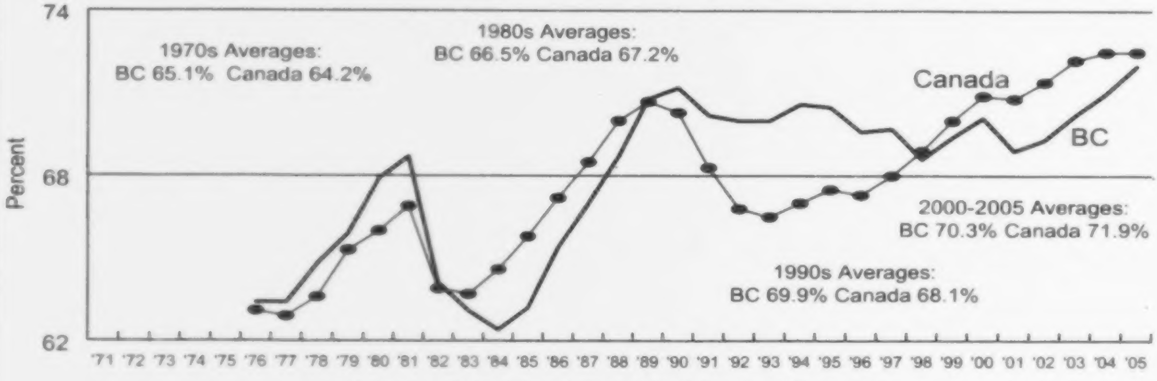
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Core Target 3: Jobs

In contrast to its performance on the other economic core targets, BC's performance on the employment rate shows some improvement since the 1970s and slight deterioration over the 1990s. The average employment to population ratio in BC was 65.1% between 1976 and 1980, 66.5% in the 1980s and 69.9% in the 1990s.

From 1976 through 1990, the national average and BC's indicator values moved more or less in unison and were never further than 5.2% (3.7 percentage points) apart. In the 1990s, BC's ratio remained relatively flat while Canada's dipped and returned such that by 1998, Canada's ratio was above BC's. British Columbia's employment rate has shown strong improvements in recent years and its average rate for 2000 through 2005 (70.3%) is even stronger than the average in the 1990s (69.9%).

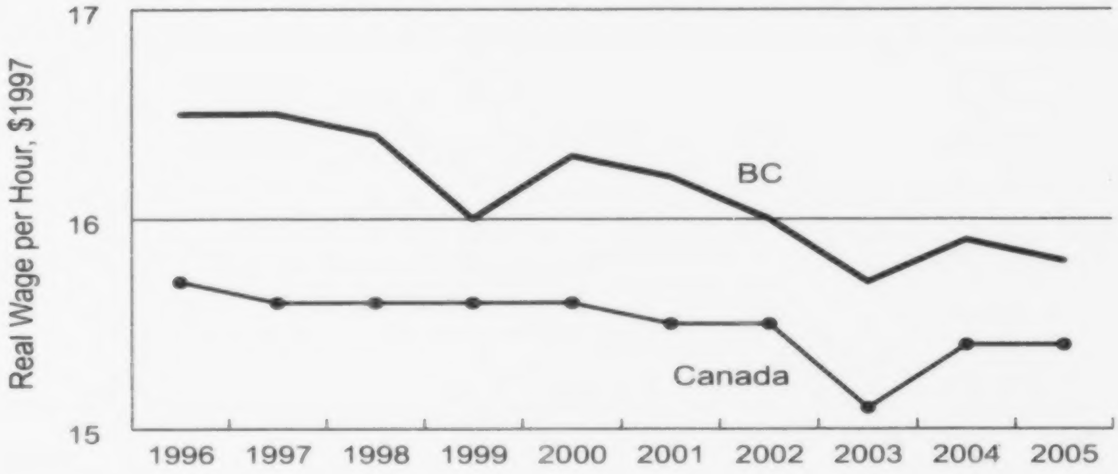
Employment to Population Ratio (ages 15-64) for BC and Canada


74
68
62
Percent
1970s Averages:
BC 65.1% Canada 64.2%
1980s Averages:
BC 66.5% Canada 67.2%
Canada
BC
2000-2005 Averages:
BC 70.3% Canada 71.9%
1990s Averages:
BC 69.9% Canada 68.1%
'71 '72 '73 '74 '75 '76 '77 '78 '79 '80 '81 '82 '83 '84 '85 '86 '87 '88 '89 '90 '91 '92 '93 '94 '95 '96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Performance Indicator 1 Real Average Hourly Wage Economy, Innovation and Education

Real Average Hourly Wage in BC and Canada, $1997



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

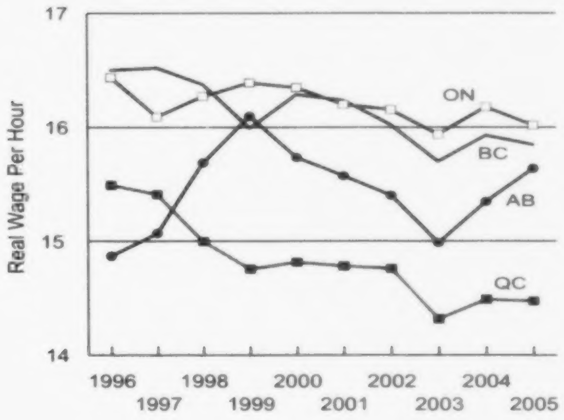
Description

This indicator measures inflation-adjusted average hourly wages earned by workers and is calculated and ranked from the worker's point of view.

Why it's Important

Real average hourly wages are a useful measure of individual prosperity. Flat real wages indicate that wage earners are simply keeping up with increases in living expenses.

Provinces - Real Hourly Wage



Where BC Ranks

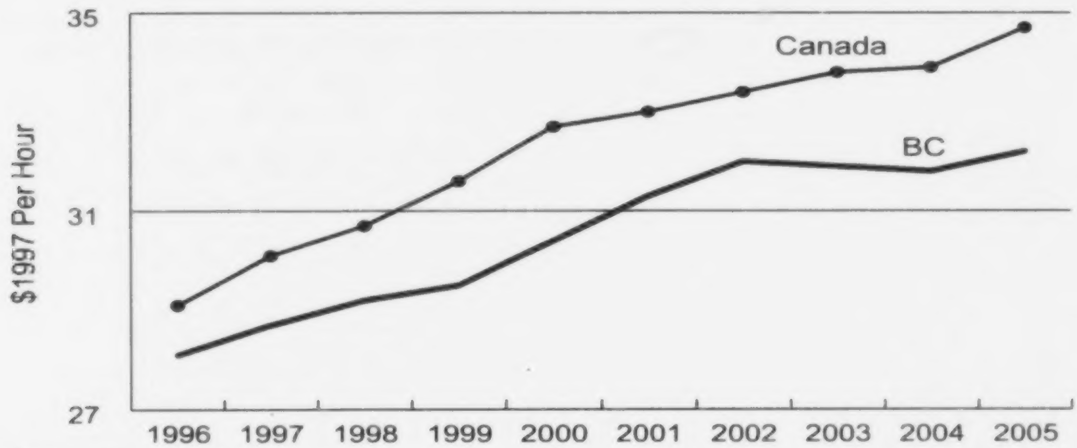
By Province	2002 2nd	2003 2nd	2004 2nd	2005 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 9th	2002-2003 6th	2003-2004 8th	2004-2005 **9th**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 7th	1994-2003 6th	1995-2004 7th	1996-2005 **9th**

How Does BC Compare?

In 1996, British Columbia ranked first in Canada with a real average hourly wage of $16.50. In 2005, British Columbia ranked second with a real average hourly wage of $15.85, behind Ontario at $16.02 and ahead of Alberta at $15.64.

The real average hourly wage in BC fell by 4.0% between 1996 and 2005, which earned it a ninth place rank for improvement among the provinces. Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta had growth of 9.2% and 5.2% respectively while Ontario saw a moderate 2.5% decrease, and Quebec had the largest drop in hourly wage (6.6%).

Real GDP Per Hour Worked (Business Sector),BC and Canada

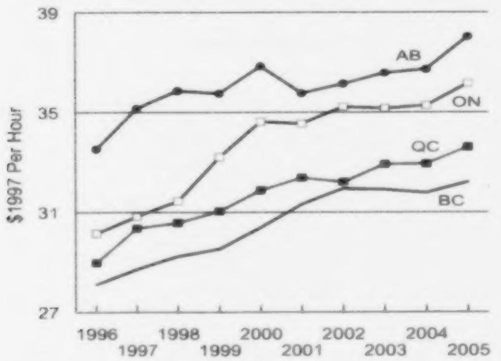


Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

There are many different measures of productivity, but perhaps the best is real GDP per hour worked in the business sector. This is a good measure of the overall efficiency of the economy. For every hour of labour in BC, workers produce a given amount of GDP.

Provinces - Productivity



Why it's Important

Growth in productivity is essential to improving income levels, public services and, ultimately, the standard of living. If productivity fails to increase, a jurisdiction's living standards will eventually decline.

Notes: Data excludes government services and health and education, even though some are provided by the private sector. *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 5th	2003 5th	2004 6th	2005 **5th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 4th*	2002-2003 8th*	2003-2004 9th*	2004-2005 **6th**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 5th*	1994-2003 8th	1995-2004 9th*	1996-2005 **7th**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2005, British Columbia ranked fifth in Canada on this measure of productivity. Alberta and Ontario held the number one and two ranks through the entire 1996 to 2005 period of analysis. Newfoundland and Labrador (32.1%) and Saskatchewan (24.0%) saw the largest percentage increases in productivity between 1996 and 2005 while BC's increase for this time period was 14.6 percent, ahead of Alberta (13.4%), New Brunswick (10.7%) and Prince Edward Island (9.1%).

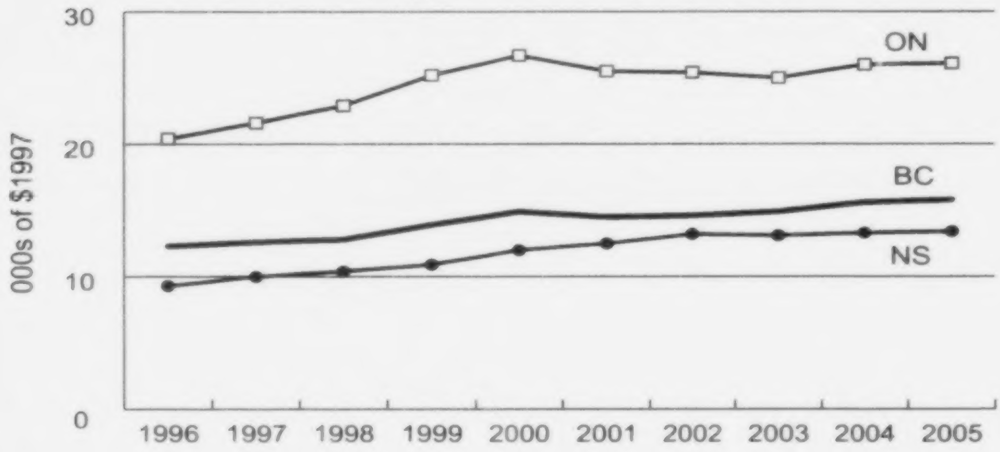
In 1996, Alberta led BC in real GDP per hour (business sector) by $5.42 (19.3%). By 2000 the gap had increased to $6.46 (21.2%) and was $5.82 (18.1%) in 2005. Six provinces made gains on BC of between $0.40 and $3.67 in real GDP per hour between 1996 and 2005. Three provinces had losses relative to BC: Nova Scotia ($0.23), New Brunswick ($1.65) and Prince Edward Island ($2.34).

Related BC Progress Board Research

The April 10, 2006 BC Progress Board publication **Boosting Incomes, Confronting Demographic Change: BC's Productivity Imperative** puts BC's productivity performance in context, and outlines some key policy areas to improve provincial productivity. See: www.bcprogressboard.com

Performance Indicator 3 Exports Economy, Innovation and Education

Total Exports of Goods and Services ($1997) Per Capita, BC And Highest and Lowest in Canada*



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

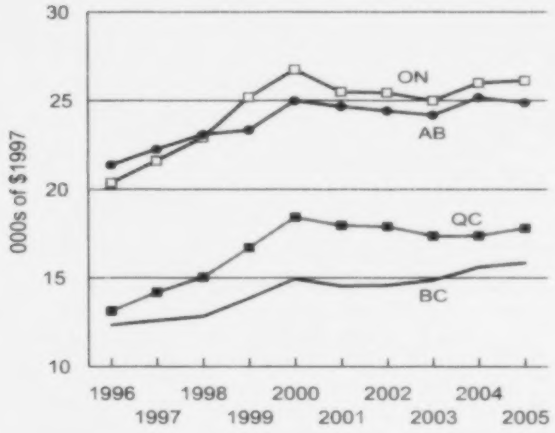
Description

This indicator measures the total amount of goods and services exported to international and inter-provincial jurisdictions from Canadian provinces, on a per capita basis.

Why it's Important

Strong exports tend to increase productivity and income levels in a jurisdiction due to additional markets available beyond the domestic market.

Provinces - Exports Per Capita ($1997)



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 8th	2003 8th	2004 8th	2005 **8th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 4th	2002-2003 4th**	2003-2004 3rd**	2004-2005 **6th**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 10th	1996-2005 **9th**

How Does BC Compare?

In 1996, BC posted total exports per capita of $12,336. By 2005, BC's exports per capita had climbed to $15,847, giving it eighth rank among Canadian provinces. Between 1996 and 2005, BC's per capita exports increased by an annual average rate of 2.4%. This rate of growth was the second lowest in Canada.

Alberta increased its exports at an average annual rate of 2.3% over the period. This was the smallest growth in Canada, but Alberta's exports in 2005 stood at $24,877 per capita, the second highest in the country.

Ontario's per capita exports rose at an annual average rate of 3.0% between 1996 and 2005. In 2005, Ontario had the highest per capita exports in Canada at $26,118. Newfoundland and Labrador's per capita exports grew by an average of 8.8% per year between 1996 and 2005 and exceeded BC's by $709 in 2005, which is down from $2,517 in 2003.

Notes: *A Canadian average is not available for this indicator because of Statistics Canada's switch to the Fisher index formula. **Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

International Exports

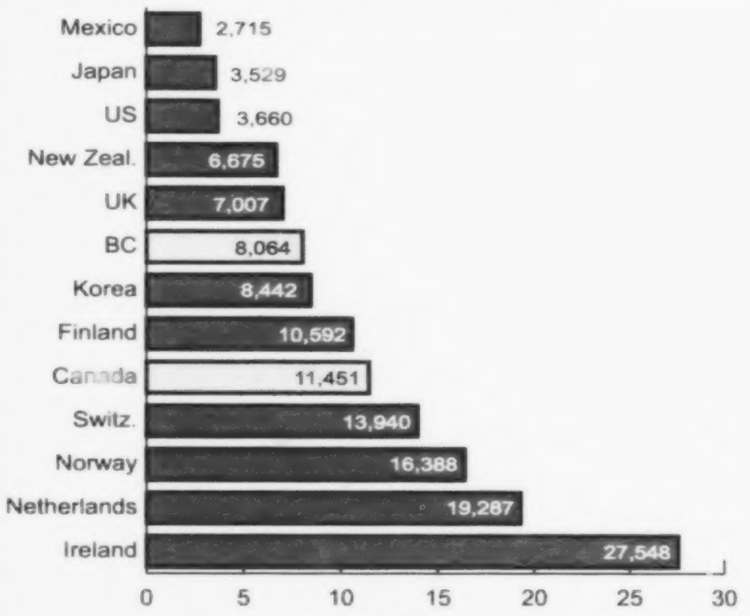
Description:

This indicator measures the total amount of goods and services exported to international jurisdictions, measured in 2000 US Dollars on a per capita basis.

How Does BC Compare?

In 2004, **British Columbia** ranked in the middle of the pack (18th) of Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) jurisdictions with $8,064* of international exports per person. British Columbia fared better, on average, for annual international exports during the period 1995 through 2004, with $8,111 in international exports on average (at the price levels and PPPs of 2000 US$) which earned a 14th place rank.

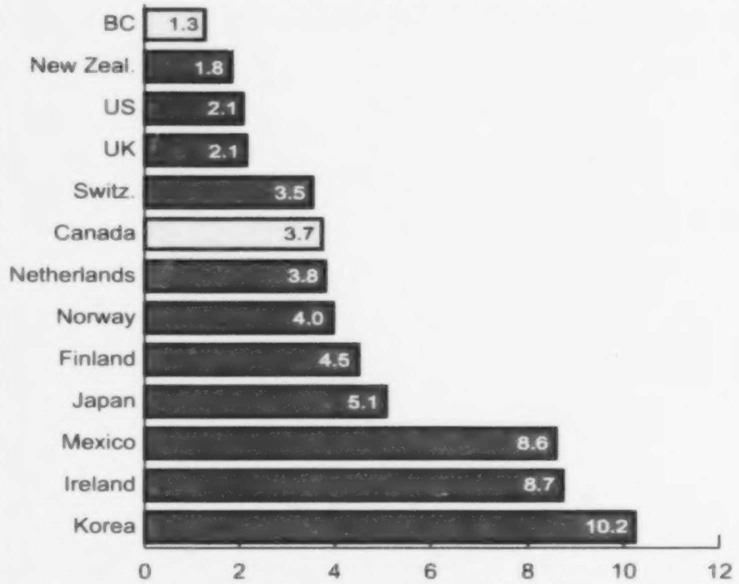
Exports per capita, 2004



Price Levels and PPPs of (2000) US Dollars

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Growth in Exports per capita, annual average, 1995-2004



Percent, Price Levels and PPPs of (2000) US Dollars

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics; OECD

Canada ranked higher than BC on the 2004 level of international exports of goods and services, earning 11th place rank** with exports of $11,451 per person. Canada's average per capita exports over the period 1995 through 2004 were $11,079 (at the price levels and PPPs of 2000 US$) which earned a 10th place rank.

Canada's main trading partner, the **United States**, had a low level of per capita international exports ($3,660) and earned the 28th place rank in 2004. The United States was two positions higher for average per capita exports over the 1995 to 2004 period with a level of $3,542 and 26th place rank.

Continued on following page.

International Exports (continued)

Ireland earned 2nd place with per capita exports of $27,548, roughly three and a half times the level in British Columbia. Ireland's average per capita exports for 1995 through 2004 of $23,570, while considerably lower than its 2004 level, still earned a 2nd place rank. The phenomenal growth in exports that Ireland has experienced can be seen in the table below. In 1990, Ireland was exporting $8,884 per person which earned it a 6th place rank (of 29 jurisdictions). Ireland's exports nearly doubled in each of the five year periods from 1990 to 1995 and 1995 to 2000 and were more than three times higher in 2004 than in 1990.

Although the United States and Japan have relatively low per capita export values they are major exporters in the OECD. In 2004, the United States ranked first with a 15.1% share of the OECD's value of goods and services exported to other countries (based on value in US dollars), followed by Germany with a 13.4% share and Japan at 7.8%. Canada ranked 8th with a 4.9% share – behind the United Kingdom (4th, 6.9%), France (5th, 6.8%), Italy (6th, 5.6%) and the Netherlands (7th, 5.3%). The smallest shares were in the Slovak Republic (28th, 0.4%), New Zealand (29th, 0.4%) and Iceland (30th, 0.1%).

International Exports of Goods and Services Per Capita, price levels and PPPs of 2000 (US$)

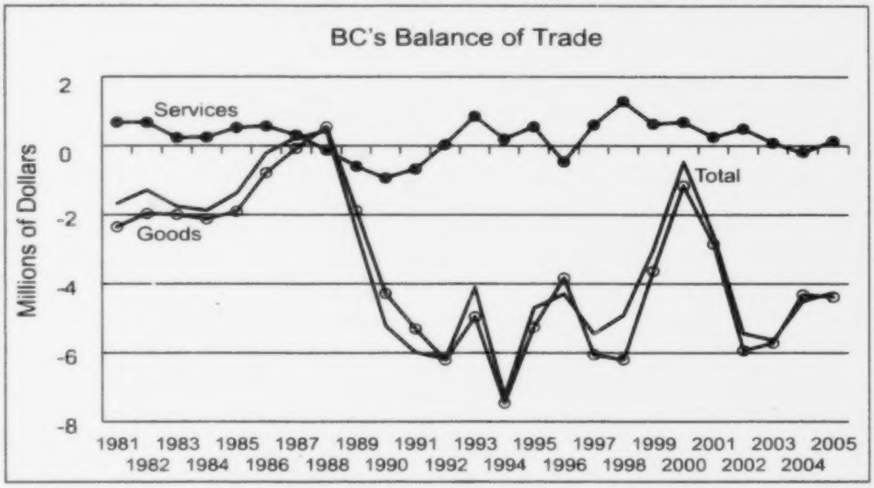
	1990	1995	2000	2004	Rank for 2004 (of 31)	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average (of 31)
British Columbia	**6,242**	**8,090**	**9,236**	**8,064**	**18**	**8,111**	**14**
Canada	6,060	9,033	12,916	11,451	11	11,079	10
Finland	5,005	7,554	11,019	10,592	13	9,487	12
Ireland	8,884	14,579	28,375	27,548	2	23,570	2
Japan	2,424	2,247	2,811	3,529	29	2,785	29
Korea (South)	2,776	3,965	6,671	8,442	17	6,008	22
Mexico	1,460	2,321	2,817	2,715	30	2,548	30
Netherlands	12,798	14,465	19,818	19,287	4	17,442	4
New Zealand	4,774	5,534	7,351	6,675	21	6,340	21
Norway	10,771	11,893	16,937	16,388	5	14,745	5
Switzerland	10,364	9,905	13,867	13,940	7	12,311	6
United Kingdom	4,956	6,272	7,172	7,007	19	6,778	18
United States	2,706	3,308	3,882	3,660	28	3,542	26
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Notes: *These data do not match those presented elsewhere in the Report because different currency and exchange rates are used here. See Appendix B for more information. **As with the economic growth exposition, Luxembourg is excluded from the discussion because a large share of its' labour force lives outside the country which distorts these data.

Detailed Balance of Trade

Trade in goods and services, (international and interprovincial) is an important part of British Columbia's economy. Interprovincial exports of goods and services totalled close to $26 billion in 2005, with services representing slightly more than 50 percent of the total ($12.9 billion versus $12.7 billion for goods). International exports in 2005 accounted for more than $48 billion, of which the majority (79%) was trade in goods. In total, exports were equal to 43.9 percent of BC's GDP in 2005.



The balance of trade for BC – representing exports minus imports – was consistently negative in interprovincial trade and consistently positive in international trade for 1981 through 2005. Interprovincially, the deficit in terms of goods has been shrinking since 1995, while the deficit in interprovincial service trade has more than doubled from $1.5 billion in 1995 to $3.2 billion in 2005. Internationally, BC has a stable surplus in terms of services for the entire 1981-2005 period, growing from a low of $26 million in 1990 to more than $3.3 billion in 2005; international goods were in surplus for every year except 1998 and 2002. BC's overall trade balance for 1981 to 2005 is depicted in the figure above, highlighting a stable balance in services trade (with a low of -$933 million and a high of $1.3 billion), and a trade deficit driven by a deficit in the balance of trade for goods starting in the late 1980s.

A trade deficit is not problematic for an economy unless it becomes very large relative to what is being produced; in BC the overall trade deficit represented just 2.5 percent of GDP in 2005. Although BC's interprovincial trade deficit has been the largest in Canada for the entire period 1981 to 2005, (in 2005 the interprovincial deficit was $8.4 billion) as a share of GDP, BC's interprovicial deficit is smaller than all provinces with an interprovincial deficit except Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador. The *Overall Trade Balance* in the table below is a combination of the "International" and "Interprovincial" total trade balances.

Provincial Balance of Trade, 2005 ($millions)

	Overall Trade Balance	Trade Surplus/ (Deficit) as a Percent of GDP	International Balance of Trade			Interprovincial Balance of Trade		
			Total	Goods	Services	Total	Goods	Services
BC	(4,252)	(2.5)	4,160	804	3,356	(8,412)	(5,189)	(3,223)
AB	40,705	18.6	32,776	32,934	(158)	7,929	12,584	(4,655)
ON	32,463	6.0	10,823	17,092	(6,269)	21,640	(3,923)	25,563
QC	(8,402)	(3.0)	(3,743)	(4,982)	1,239	(4,659)	(488)	(4,171)

Source: Statistics Canada Note: a table with all the provinces is included in Appendix D.

The BC/Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement

On April 28, 2006 British Columbia and Alberta signed a Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA), aiming to eliminate all barriers to trade, investment, and labour mobility between the two provinces. The agreement will dismantle persistent inter-provincial barriers to trade, including overlapping regulations and policy misalignment, and further integrating two increasingly interrelated economies. It will commence April 2007 with a transition period to April 2009.

Related BC Progress Board Research

The February 25, 2005 BC Progress Board publication **Economic Growth Through Regulatory Reform** highlights the important role the design of regulatory policy - enacted by all orders of government - plays in building a competitive economy.
See: www.bcprogressboard.com.

While the Canadian Constitution expressly prohibits tariffs on inter-provincial trade in Canada, non-tariff barriers (NTBs) constrain the integration of the Canadian market by increasing the cost of doing business across provinces. Aiming to address these NTBs, the federal and provincial governments in 1995 implemented the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT). Although AIT has since been successful in reducing some hurdles to commerce and in preventing the establishment of new barriers, several characteristics of the program – the necessity of consensus to make decisions, scope-limiting exceptions and exemptions, limited legal power of the agreement, and a flawed settlement procedure – have constrained its success overall. While little research has been done to quantify the cost of persistent internal barriers in Canada, a recent report describes the current list of NTBs in Canada as "daunting" and the negotiating process under AIT "a serious challenge". TILMA aims to overcome AIT's limitations by not requiring complete harmonization of standards and regulations, and by making the agreement legally binding.

The agreement creates a single economy of 7.7 million people, the second largest in Canada (Ontario is the largest with 12.7 million). One estimate notes that the agreement could add up to $4.8 billion to combined real GDP and create 78,000 jobs in BC. The key terms of TILMA include:

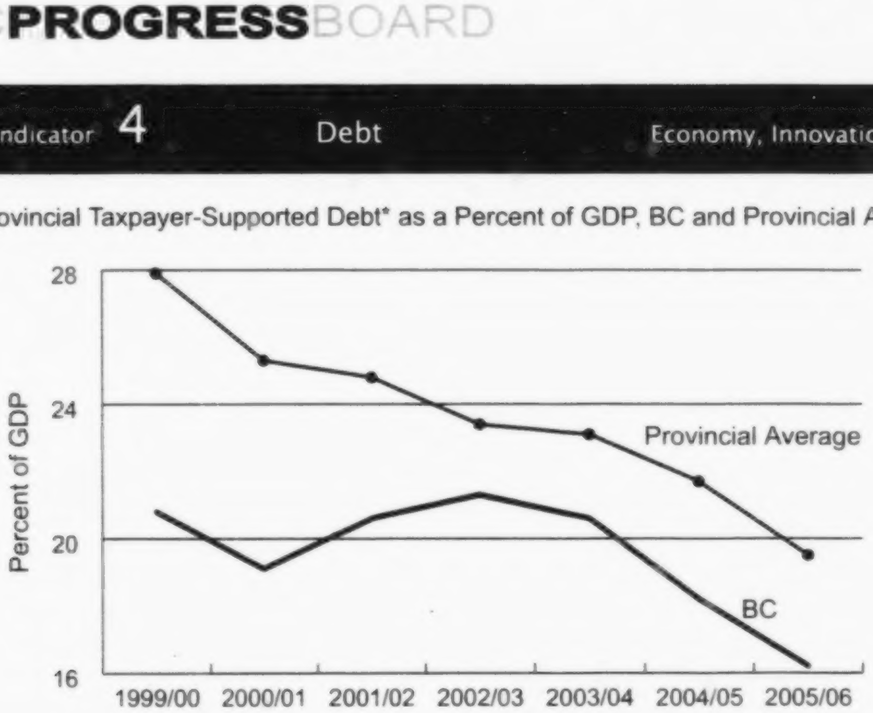
- Identification and reconciliation of differences in standards and regulations;
- Streamlining of business registration, commercial vehicle registration, and worker certification such that those registered or certified in one province are similarly registered or certified in the other;
- Open and non-discriminatory tender processes to procurement in governments in both provinces;
- Improvement of existing inter-jurisdictional trade arrangements in Energy and ensuring standards are compatible within the region and North America; and,
- Binding dispute resolution, involving an arbitration panel that reviews disputes and issues a binding report with non-compliance resulting in a penalty of up to $5 million.

At the end of the implementation process in April 2009, further negotiations are planned to extend the scope of TILMA to cover municipalities, school boards, publicly-funded academic, health, and social entities, financial institutions, financial services, and Crown corporations. Expanding TILMA to other provinces is also part of future plans, and Saskatchewan has already expressed interest in joining. As well, the Committee of Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers responsible for Internal Trade is currently considering TILMA as a guide for changing AIT, and recently committed to full cross-country labour mobility by April 2009, mirroring a key tenet of TILMA.

Sources: Government of British Columbia and Government of Alberta (2006) The British Columbia-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement: Fact Sheet; Business Council of British Columbia (2006) An Overview of the BC-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement, Policy Perspectives Vol 13 No 3, July 2006. The Conference Board of Canada (2006) Death by a Thousand Paper Cuts: The Effects of Barriers to Competition on Canadian Productivity; Government of British Columbia (2006) Backgrounder: B.C. - AB Agreement on Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility; Council of the Federation (2006) News Release: Progress Achieved on Action Plan to Improve Internal Trade.

Performance Indicator 4 | Debt | Economy, Innovation and Education

Provincial Taxpayer-Supported Debt* as a Percent of GDP, BC and Provincial Average

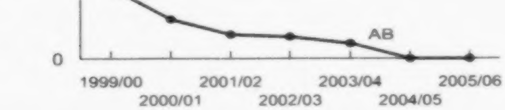


Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; TD Economics.

Description

This indicator measures the provincial net public debt burden as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP). Taxpayer-supported debt includes government direct debt, and the debt of Crown corporations and agencies that require a subsidy from the provincial government.

Provinces - Taxpayer-Supported Debt*



Why it's Important

Payments to service taxpayer-supported debt can consume a large portion of a jurisdiction's budget, thereby diminishing its capacity to provide public services. The debt burden is also an important indication of a jurisdiction's attractiveness for business investment.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002/03 3rd	2003/04 3rd	2004/05 2nd	**2005/06** **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2001/02 - 2002/03 8th	2002/03 - 2003/04 4th	2003/04 - 2004/05 2nd***	2004/05 - 2005/06 **2nd**
Period Progress Rank	1993/94 - 2002/03 n/a	1994/95 - 2003/04 n/a	1995/96 - 2004/05 n/a	1996/97 - 2005/06

How Does BC Compare?

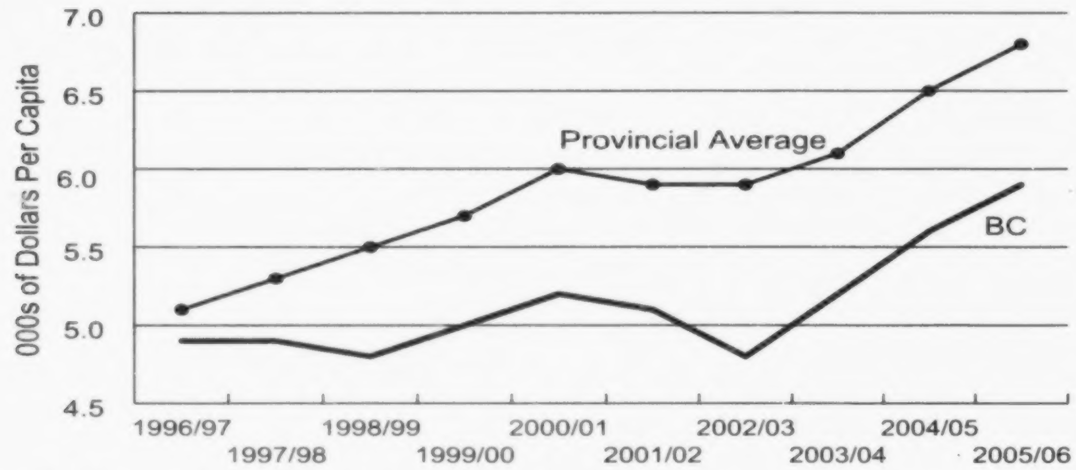
In 2005/06, British Columbia posted the second lowest taxpayer-supported debt as a percent of GDP at 16.2%, behind Alberta, which has eliminated its debt, and ahead of Manitoba at 18.4%.

The difference in taxpayer-supported debt as a percent of GDP between BC and the provincial average shrank from 7.1 percentage points in 1999/00 to 2.1 in 2002/03 as BC's ratio generally grew and the Canadian average ratio fell. The difference grew to 3.2 percentage points in 2005/06 as BC's ratio fell faster than average.

As of March 31, 2006, British Columbia's taxpayer-supported debt was $27.4 billion, or 76% of the province's total debt burden. The remaining 24%, or $7.5 billion, of BC's public debt is self-supported debt incurred by commercial Crown corporations and agencies that carry and repay their own debt.**

Notes: *The full series is not available due to accounting changes for BC and other provinces. **Government of British Columbia, Budget and Fiscal Plan: 2006/07 - 2008/09, February 21, 2006. ***Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Performance Indicator 5 Tax Burden Economy, Innovation and Education



Per Capita Consolidated Tax Burden, BC and Provincial Average

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

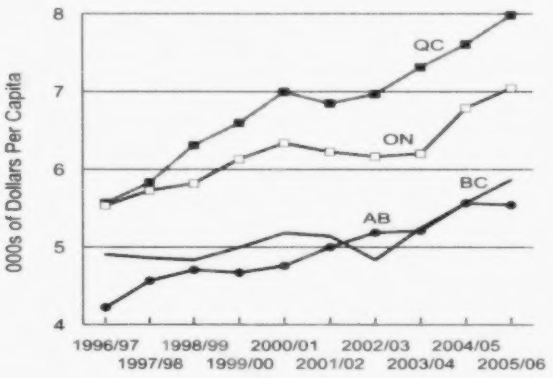
Description

This indicator represents the combined tax burden from local and provincial sources, expressed on a per person basis. It is a comprehensive measure of the tax bill; details of the taxes included can be found in Appendix C.

Why it's Important

This indicator is a good summary measure of the "total" provincial and local tax burden, and along with other factors such as the regulatory burden, infrastructure quality, and access to quality health care and education, can help to determine business location and investment decisions.

Provinces - Tax Burden



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002/03 5th	2003/04 6th*	2004/05 6th*	**2005/06 6th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001/02 - 2002/03 1st	2002/03 - 2003/04 10th	2003/04 - 2004/05 7th	2004/05 - 2005/06 **7th**
Period Progress Rank	1993/94 - 2002/03 1st	1994/95 - 2003/04 1st	1995/96 - 2004/05 1st	1996/97 - 2005/06 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?

BC posted the sixth lowest consolidated provincial and local government tax burden in Canada at $5,866 in 2005/06. From 1996/97 onward, BC experienced a 19.6% increase in this tax burden, the smallest in the country.

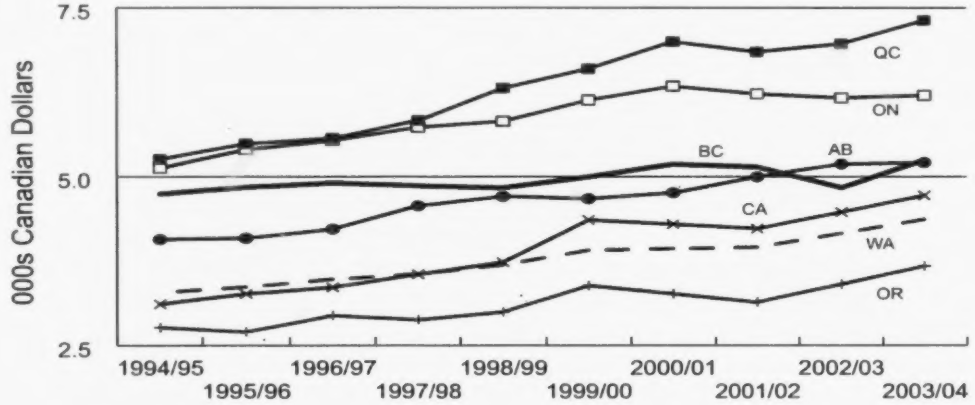
Alberta usually has had a lower consolidated provincial and local tax burden than BC; in 2003/04 and 2004/05 they were less than $30 apart. In 2005/06, BC's was $322 higher. From 1996/97 to 2005/06, BC saw the per capita consolidated provincial and local government tax burden rise by $961. In comparison, Alberta recorded an increase of $1,320 and Ontario posted an increase of $1,510.

Between 2004/05 and 2005/06, combined provincial and local revenues from personal income taxes grew by 14.6% and corporate income tax revenue grew by 12.3%. Consumption tax revenue grew by 2.2% and property tax revenue grew 7.0% over the same period.

Notes: This indicator uses data from Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS) and, therefore, may not exactly match results provided by government Finance Ministries. *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Tax Burden

Consolidated Provincial (State*) and Local Government Tax Burden, Per Capita



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau.

Description

Per capita tax burden looks at the burden of combined provincial (state) and local taxes distributed on a per person

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2000/01 5th	2001/02 5th	2002/03 4th	2003/04 **5th**
1-Year Progress Check	1999/00 - 2000/01 6th	2000/01 - 2001/02 5th	2001/02 - 2002/03 1st	2002/03 - 2003/04 **7th**
Period Progress Rank	1992/93 - 2000/01 3rd	1992/93 - 2001/02 2nd	1993/94 - 2002/03 1st	1994/95 - 2003/04 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2003/04, British Columbia ranked fifth with a per capita tax burden of $5,244. The two jurisdictions that ranked lower were provinces. Alberta ranked third with a tax burden of $5,208 (only $35 lower than BC's), Ontario ranked sixth with a tax burden of $6,202 ($959 higher than BC's) and Quebec ranked last with a tax burden of $7,313 ($2,069 higher than BC's).

The states had the lowest tax burdens. Oregon's taxpayers contribute just $3,674 each ($1,569 lower than in BC), earning it the top rank. Washington State's tax burden is $4,367 ($876 lower than BC's) and California's burden is $4,720 ($524 lower than BC's).

The tax burden increased between 1994/95 and 2003/04 in every jurisdiction. The smallest increase was 10.5% in BC and the largest was 51.6% in California.

Notes: *The US Census Bureau did not produce 2000/01 and 2002/03 state level state-local finance data. The 2000/01 state data above are interpolated from the 1999/00 and 2001/02 data points and the 2002/03 state data above are interpolated from the 2001/02 and 2003/04 data points.

Business Tax Competitiveness

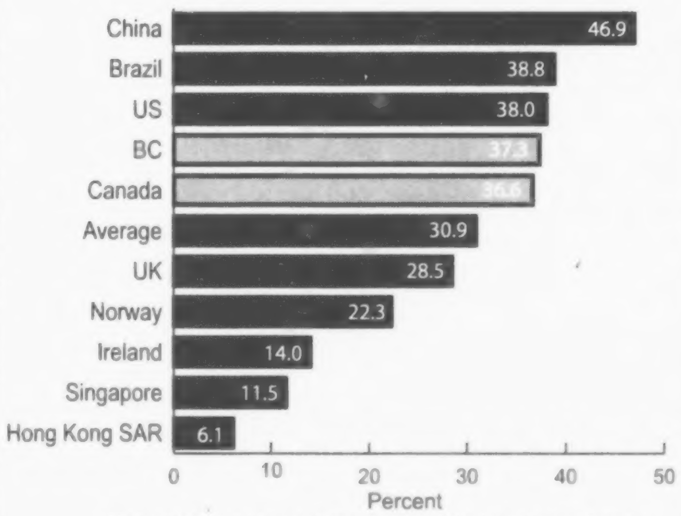
As the economy becomes increasingly global and reaps the benefits of continual technology advances, physical location becomes less important. A brief examination of some of the world's top economic growth performers (Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Ireland) illustrates that BC and Canada share many of the ingredients of these jurisdiction's success: a highly educated population, advanced transportation and communications infrastructures, and export-oriented production. The only key difference appears to be effective tax rates that are far above those of competing jurisdictions.

Related BC Progress Board Research

The April 10, 2006 BC Progress Board publication **Boosting Incomes, Confronting Demographic Change: BC's Productivity Imperative** puts BC's productivity performance in context, and outlines some key policy areas to improve provincial productivity. See: www.bcprogressboard.com.

While British Columbia's and Canada's corporate tax rates appear competitive with other global jurisdictions in analyses which use simple statutory corporate income tax rates, this does not always present a true picture of the real costs investors face; a variety of other taxes and tax related factors combine to influence the effective tax rate investors pay. Capital taxes, sales and excise taxes, inventory and depreciation deductions, and personal and investment taxes all affect the rate of return net of taxes that a business receives on its investment – the rate that any potential investor will use in comparisons with other jurisdictions. By limiting investor returns, high effective tax rates reduce the likelihood of investments in productivity enhancing capital projects and new technologies that could otherwise serve to raise wages and increase standards of living.

Effective Tax Rates on Capital, 2006



Source: CD Howe Institute, The 2006 Tax Competitiveness Report: Proposals for Pro-Growth Tax Reform, September 2006.

Canada has the sixth highest effective tax rate among thirty-six competitor countries in 2006. Adding developing countries to the comparison only yields two more countries with a higher rate. Canada's rate, 36.6 percent, is the eighth highest in the world and is more than six percentage points higher than size-weighted average effective tax rate on capital across all eighty-one countries.

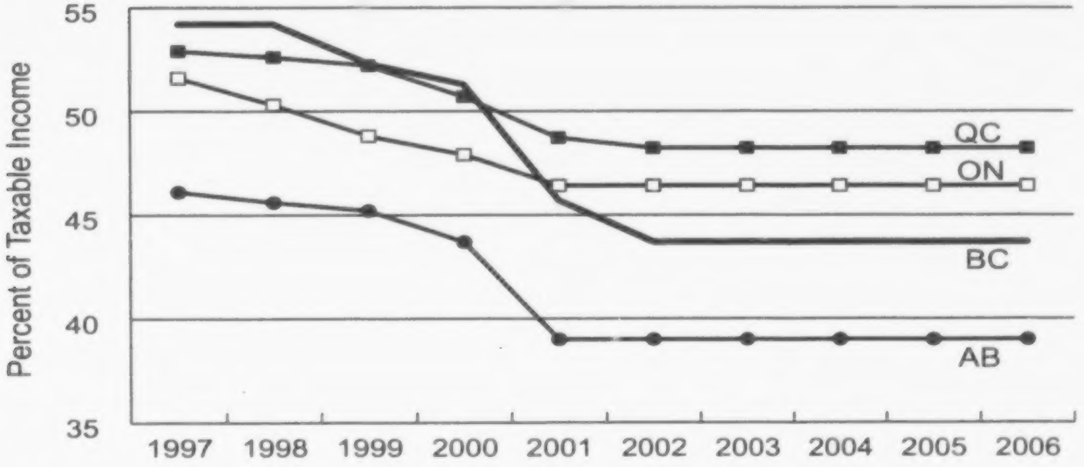
A comparison of aggregate effective tax rates shows that BC had the fourth highest rate among the provinces in 2006 with a rate 8.3 percentage points above Alberta, but 4.9 percentage points below Ontario. Effective tax rates on capital investments are expected to decline to 34.9 percent in 2010 from 37.3 percent in 2006.

Competitive tax rates and fiscal policies are a key factor found in Canada's most successful competitors. Tax rates are not the whole story as companies also look for a number of other factors including a skilled and educated labourforce, efficient infrastructure, easy access to services inputs and transportation routes. British Columbia has made progress, but must continue its efforts to both be a less expensive place to do business, as well as being a *better* place to do business.

Sources: Jack M. Mintz, The 2006 Tax Competitiveness Report: Proposals for Pro-Growth Tax Reform; Jack Mintz, Tax Policy Choices Facing Small Open Economies: The Case of British Columbia, November 18th, 2003 presentation.

Performance Indicator 6 Tax Rate Economy, Innovation and Education

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate for British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Ministry of Finance; KPMG.

Description

The top marginal personal income tax rate is the combined federal-provincial income tax rate levied on the highest income bracket. The top rate takes effect at various income thresholds as noted in the box below.

Why it's Important

The top marginal (combined federal and provincial) income tax rate is a key factor in a jurisdiction's ability to attract and retain highly skilled workers and leading innovators. High marginal tax rates tend to discourage additional work effort and lessen the growth of real GDP.

How Does BC Compare?

From 1994 to 1998, BC had the highest top marginal personal income tax rate in Canada at 54.2%. Newfoundland was the closest province to BC with a rate of 53.3% between 1996 and 1998.

Alberta has had the lowest top marginal tax rate throughout the entire 1997 to 2006 period. Alberta's highest rate over this period was 46.1%, in place in 1997. The gap between BC's and Alberta's rates narrowed from 8.6 percentage points in 1998, to 4.7 percentage points in 2002, where it remains. In 2006, BC's top marginal personal tax rate stands at 43.7%, second lowest in the country behind Alberta at a rate of 39.0%. The province of Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest 2006 rate at 48.6%.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2003 2nd	2004 2nd	2005 2nd	**2006 2nd**
1-Year Progress Check*	2002-2003 2nd	2003-2004 1st	2004-2005 1st	2005-2006 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1994-2003 3rd	1995-2004 1st	1996-2005 1st	1997-2006 **1st**

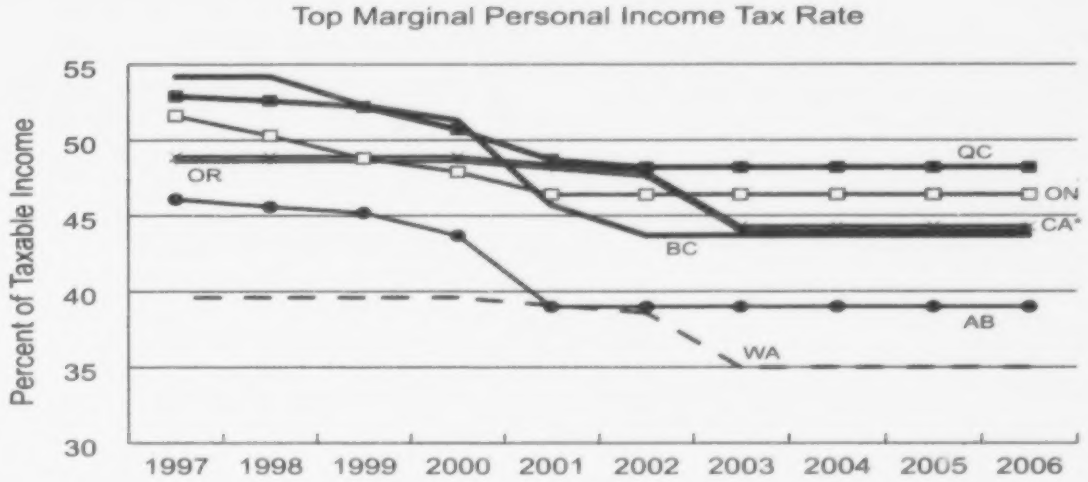
Federal and Provincial Top Marginal Tax Rates and Income Thresholds for Individuals – 2006

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON**	QC***	NB	NS**	PE**	NF**	Federal
Tax Rate	14.70%	10.00%	15.00%	17.40%	17.41%	19.22%	17.84%	19.25%	18.37%	19.64%	29.00%
Income Bracket	$94,122 and over	All income	$107,368 and over	$65,001 and over	$69,517 and over	$57,431 and over	$108,769 and over	$93,001 and over	$61,510 and over	$59,181 and over	$118,286 and over

Source: KPMG, Combined Federal and Provincial Top Marginal Tax Rates for Individuals and Federal and Provincial Tax Rates, Brackets and Surtaxes, Current as of February 1, 2006.

Notes: *All provinces ranked first in 2006 as there were no tax rate changes between 2005 and 2006; nine provinces tied for first for 2005 as only Nova Scotia increased its tax rate. **Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador levy surtaxes in their personal income tax systems; the income brackets shown are those that apply to the top statutory rates. ***The abatement of basic federal tax is incorporated.

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Ministry of Finance; KPMG; US Internal Revenue Service.

Description

The top marginal personal income tax rate is the rate levied on individual taxpayers in the top income bracket for the next dollar of income earned. High tax rates discourage work effort and reduce potential GDP. In addition, they make an area a less desirable place to live and invest in, other things being equal, since less after-tax income is available for consumption and saving.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2003 3rd	2004 3rd	2005 3rd	**2006** **3rd**
1-Year Progress Check**	2002-2003 4th***	2003-2004 1st	2004-2005 1st	2005-2006 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1994-2003 2nd	1995-2004 1st	1996-2005 1st	1997-2006 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?

On average, the lowest top marginal personal income tax rates are in Alberta and Washington State. From 1994 through 2000 British Columbia had the highest top marginal personal income tax rate with rates over 50%. Cross-border comparisons of income tax rates are complicated by the fact that top marginal rates in the US take effect at much higher incomes than in Canada. Canadian top marginal tax rates take effect at incomes over $118,286; US top rates do not apply until the taxpayer reaches a Canadian dollar income of $420,023.

US Top Marginal Tax Rates and Income Thresholds, 2006	CA	OR	Federal
Income Threshold (single), $US	43,467	6,850	336,550
Income Threshold (single), $CDN	54,248	8,549	420,023
Top Marginal Tax Rate, %	9.3	9.0	35.0

Notes: *California has imposed an additional 1 percent tax on taxable income over $1,000,000 since 2005. **All jurisdictions ranked first for 2003-2004 on as there were no tax rate changes. ***The US federal tax rate decreased in 2003; the provinces all ranked fourth for the 1-Year Progress Check for 2002-2003. Washington State has no state personal income tax; the rates shown for Washington State are the applicable federal personal income tax rates. The 2005 PPP exchange rate was used for the threshold conversions presented above.

Benchmarking Key Business and Personal Tax Rates

The federal government uses four brackets to determine personal income tax owed while most provinces use three. British Columbia's personal income tax system has five brackets, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia use four and Alberta, with its single rate system, has only one taxable income bracket.

The brackets and rates in the table below apply to taxable income, that is, after exemptions and deductions have been applied to total income. British Columbia and Ontario have the lowest rate in the first bracket, and although Ontario's second rate does not apply until a slightly higher level of taxable income, BC's structure has a higher basic personal amount which allows one to earn more before income is considered taxable. Alberta has the highest basic personal amount which, at $14,899, is well above BC's third-highest $8,858.

The highest tax rate in the federal structure, 29.0 percent, applies to taxable incomes over $118,286. The comparable rates in the provincial systems range from Alberta's 10.0 percent, which applies to all taxable income, to Newfoundland and Labrador's 18.02 percent which applies to taxable incomes of $59,181 and higher. British Columbia's highest tax rate of 14.7 percent is applied to taxable incomes over $94,122.

In addition to basic federal and provincial personal income tax, four provinces, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador levy surtaxes at varying rates. These rates apply once "basic" personal income tax reaches the threshold listed in the table.

Combined Federal and Provincial Tax Rate Structures, 2006

	Federal	**BC**	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
Basic Personal	8,839	**8,858**	14,899	8,589	7,734	8,377	9,555	8,061	7,231	7,412	7,410
1st Bracket Range ($)	0 - 36,378	**0 - 33,755**	all income	0 - 37,579	0 - 30,544	0 - 34,758	0 - 28,710	0 - 33,451	0 - 29,590	0 - 30,754	0 - 29,590
1st Bracket Rate (%)	15.25	**6.05**	10.00	11.00	10.90	6.05	16.00	9.68	8.79	9.80	10.57
2nd Bracket Range ($)	36,379 - 72,756	**33,756 - 67,511**	n/a	37,580 - 107,367	30,545 - 65,000	34,759 - 69,516	28,711 - 57,430	33,452 - 66,902	29,591 - 59,180	30,755 - 61,509	29,591 - 59,180
2nd Bracket Rate (%)	22.00	**9.15**	n/a	13.00	13.50	9.15	20.00	14.82	14.95	13.80	16.16
3rd Bracket Range ($)	72,757 - 118,285	**67,512 - 77,511**	n/a	107,368 +	65,001 +	69,517 +	57,431 +	66,903 - 108,768	59,181 - 93,000	61,510 +	59,181 +
3rd Bracket Rate (%)	26.00	**11.70**	n/a	15.00	17.40	11.16	24.00	16.52	16.67	16.70	18.02
4th Bracket Range ($)	118,286 +	**77,512 - 94,121**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	108,769 +	93,001 +	n/a	n/a
4th Bracket Rate (%)	29.00	**13.70**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17.84	17.50	n/a	n/a
5th Bracket Range ($)	n/a	**94,122 +**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5th Bracket Rate (%)	n/a	**14.70**	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surtax 1 Threshold	n/a	**n/a**	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,016	n/a	n/a	10,000	5,200	7,032
Surtax 1 Rate	n/a	**n/a**	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.00	n/a	n/a	10.00	10.00	9.00
Surtax 2 Threshold	n/a	**n/a**	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,066	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surtax 2 Rate	n/a	**n/a**	n/a	n/a	n/a	36.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: KPMG

With an annual income of $30,000 in 2005, a married taxpayer with a spouse and two children of ages six and twelve would pay $2,812 in federal and BC income tax. This fourth-lowest amount among the provinces compares to the lowest, Alberta at $2,086 and Newfoundland and Labrador, the highest at $3,656. The same taxpayer, with an income of $60,000 would pay $11,067 in Alberta, followed by second-lowest BC at $11,566. This taxpayer in Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest tax bill among the provinces at $14,591. Among the provinces, British Columbia's top marginal personal income tax rate is second-lowest

Continued on following page.

Benchmarking Key Business and Personal Tax Rates (cont.)

for most people's main income source, salary and interest income, second-lowest for capital gains income and fourth-lowest for dividend income.

Alberta has the lowest and Newfoundland and Labrador has the highest top marginal personal income tax rates for all classes of income.

British Columbia has the third-lowest combined federal and provincial small business income tax rates for 2006, behind Alberta and New Brunswick. The highest rate for small businesses with incomes less than $300,000 is in Quebec.

BC ranked third among the provinces for its general corporate tax rate, behind Quebec and Alberta, and ranked second, behind Alberta for the tax rate on corporate investment income. Quebec had the highest investment income tax rate in 2006.

Combined Federal and Provincial Tax Rates 2006

	Top Marginal Rates (%)			Ranks for Top Marginal Rates		
	Salary & Interest	Capital Gains	Dividends	Salary & Interest	Capital Gains	Dividends
Federal	29.00	14.50	19.58	n/a	n/a	n/a
BC	43.70	21.85	31.58	2	2	4
AB	39.00	19.50	24.08	1	1	1
SK	44.00	22.00	28.33	3	3	2
MB	46.40	23.20	35.24	4	4	7
ON	46.41	23.20	31.33	5	4	3
QC	48.22	24.11	36.35	8	8	8
NB	46.84	23.42	37.26	6	6	9
NS	48.25	24.13	33.06	9	9	6
PE	47.37	23.69	31.96	7	7	5
NF	48.64	24.32	37.32	10	10	10

Source: KPMG

Corporate Income Tax Rates 2006

	Small Business Income up to $300,000[c]	General Active Business Income[d]	Investment Income[e]	Small Business Income up to $300,000[c]	General Active Business Income[d]	Investment Income[e]
	Percent			Rank		
BC	17.6	34.1	47.8	3	3	2
AB[b]	16.1	32.1	47.3	2	2	1
SK[b]	18.1	36.1	49.8	5	5	4
MB	17.6	36.6	50.3	3	8	7
ON	18.6	36.1	49.8	9	5	4
QC[a]	21.1	32.0	52.0	10	1	10
NB[a]	14.6	35.1	48.8	1	4	3
NS	18.1	38.1	51.8	5	9	8
PE[a]	18.5	38.1	51.8	8	9	8
NF	18.1	36.1	49.8	5	5	4

Source: KPMG Notes: [a]decreased small business rate in 2006, QC from 8.5% to 8.0%, NB from 2.0% to 1.5% and PE from 6.5% to 5.4% [b]decreased general corporate tax rate in 2006, AB from 11.5% to 10% and SK from 17% to 14% [c]rate applies up to the provincial threshold: BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, NS: $400,000, NB: $475,000.

Sources: KPMG, 2006 Combined Federal and Provincial Top Marginal Tax Rates for Individuals and Federal and Provincial Tax Rates, Brackets and Surtaxes, 2006 Federal and Provincial Personal Tax Credits, 2005-2006 Combined Federal and Provincial Income Tax Rates for Income Earned by a Canadian-Controlled Private Corporation; Canadian Tax Foundation, Finances of the Nation 2005. **Note:** The tables presented above are simplified versions of the originals; please see the original documents for the full set of footnotes.

Head Offices

Head Offices of Canada's 500 Largest Corporations							
	ON	QC	AB	BC	MB	SK	Atlantic
Per 1,000,000 Population							
2002	19.9	14.0	18.9	11.7	16.4	11.0	6.4
2003	19.1	13.5	20.3	12.0	17.2	12.1	6.8
2004	18.3	12.9	21.8	13.8	16.2	13.1	5.1
2005	17.5	12.0	24.9	12.7	15.3	15.1	5.1
Percent of Total							
2002	48.2	20.8	11.8	9.6	3.8	2.2	3.0
2003	46.8	20.2	12.8	10.0	4.0	2.4	3.2
2004	45.4	19.4	14.0	11.6	3.8	2.6	2.4
2005	44.0	18.2	16.2	10.8	3.6	3.0	2.4

Sources: National Post, FP 500: Canada's Largest Corporations; Statistics Canada

Head offices are the command centre of a company, the place where strategies are developed, senior managers work, professional services are employed, and where control over business decisions reside. The number of head offices in a region, and rate of growth or decline in that number, has become an important benchmark of both a region's attractiveness to business investment and its relative economic success.

Head offices have a significant positive economic impact on the region in which they reside. A variety of functions are carried out at the head office that may not be present at smaller 'branch' offices, factories, or other facilities of the company. The majority of high-paid and high-skilled professional and managerial positions in a company are generally located at the head office as are many of the company's research and development functions, both of which provide spin-offs for the local economy. In addition to high-skilled employment within the company, head offices are in constant need of outside services including accounting, advertising, engineering, consulting, legal, banking and financial services, generally hiring these services locally and creating 'trickle down' effects for the region in which they are located.

Corporate head offices also have a significant effect on other businesses in a region. Creating and training their own skilled labour pool can have additional economic benefits as professionals, from within the company and without, take on employment for other businesses in the area thereby furthering the creation of a skilled labour force. The presence of head offices encourages a higher level of corporate involvement, support and donations to local charities, educational facilities and community events.

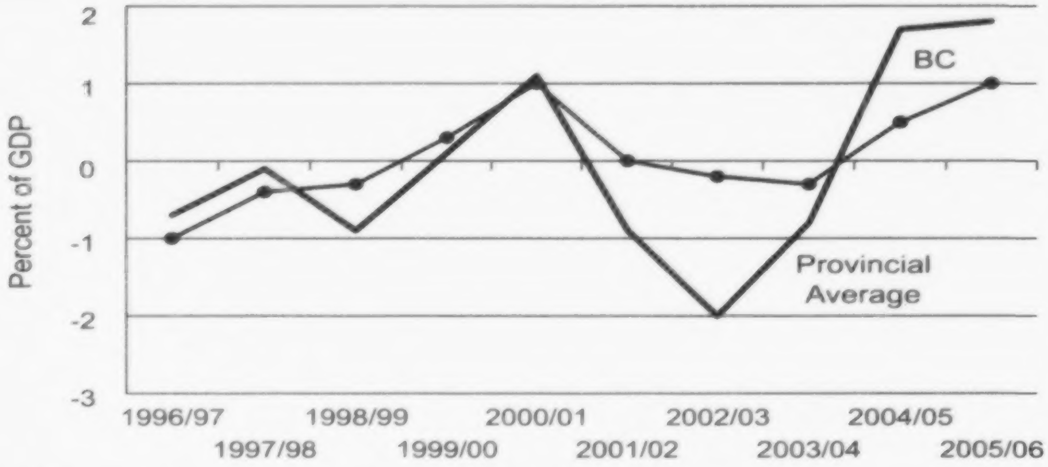
Vancouver lost head offices between 1990 and 2001. Province-wide data show that BC's position on total head offices appears to have deteriorated in 2005 following improvements in 2003 and 2004. In 2002 BC was home to the head offices of 9.6 percent of Canada's 500 largest companies. This grew to 10.0 percent in 2003 and 11.6 percent in 2004 but fell to 10.8 percent in 2005. Employment in Vancouver head offices has also been on the decline, from 16,894 in 1999 to 11,938 in 2005. Calgary has replaced Vancouver as the top city in Western Canada, going from 11,815 in 1999 to 19,428 in 2005.

Many factors influence a company's location decision. Government policy decisions naturally have a significant impact: relative tax rates, infrastructure, support for small and medium sized businesses, and the nature of the regulatory environment rank among them. Agglomeration effects are also a significant factor with companies often choosing to locate where they can find the inputs they require, principally a skilled professional or specialized work force, key production resources, and transportation and technological infrastructure.

The location of head offices is an important indicator of the relative success of a region's economy and the attractiveness of its business environment. Attracting head offices not only means that the region is perceived as a viable place to "do business" but also provides numerous benefits for the broader community.

Sources: Statistics Canada (2003), Hollowing-out, Trimming-down or Scaling-up? An Analysis of Head Offices in Canada, 1999-2002, cat. # 11F0027MIE; (2006) Head Office Employment in Canada, 1999 to 2005 cat. # 11-624MIE-014; Business Council of British Columbia (2005), Corporate Head Offices in BC; Investment Dealers Association of Canada (2003); Unlocking British Columbia's Economic Potential, speech by Terry Salman, President; Canadian Council of Chief Executives (2005), The Immigration Advantage: How Multiculturalism Helps Canada Compete, speech by David Stewart-Patterson, Executive Vice President.

Performance Indicator 7 Surplus/(Deficit) Economy, Innovation and Education



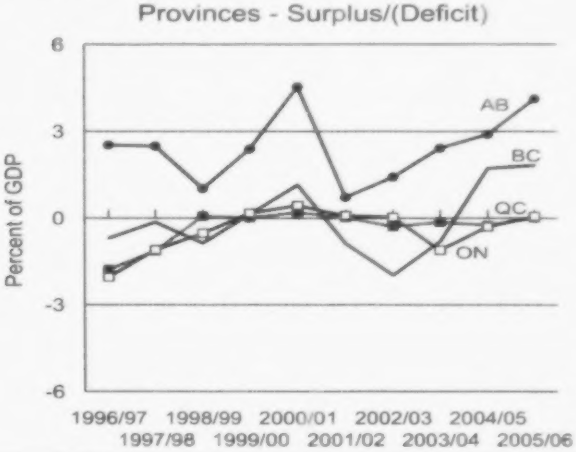
Sources: BC Progress Board; Statistics Canada; Finance Canada.

Description

This indicator is a simple measure of whether a provincial government is in a deficit or a surplus position, expressed as a percent of GDP.

Why it's Important

Over time, successive deficits will increase the total debt level. Large portions of provincial budgets may then be required to finance accumulated debt burdens with money that could otherwise be spent on priority government programs or used to lower taxes.



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002/03 9th	2003/04 7th	2004/05 2nd	2005/06 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2001/02-2002/03 10th	2002/03-2003/04 1st	2003/04-2004/05 1st*	2004/05-2005/06 **6th**
Period Progress Rank	1993/94-2002/03 9th	1994/95-2003/04 8th	1995/96-2004/05 3rd	1996/97-2005/06 **5th**

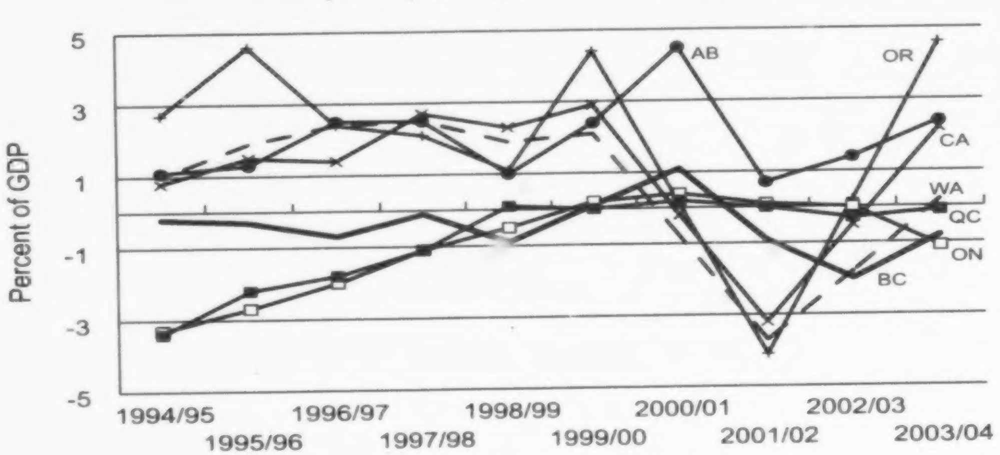
How Does BC Compare?

In 1996/97, BC had a deficit equivalent to 0.7% of GDP. The all province average in 1996/97 was a deficit of 1.0% of GDP. BC ran budget deficits between 1996/97 and 1998/99, before posting a surplus in fiscal years 1999/00 and 2000/01 buoyed by sharp (and temporary) "spikes" in electricity and natural gas revenues. These two surplus years were followed by three more deficit years. British Columbia posted the second largest surplus as a percent of GDP among the provinces in 2004/05 and 2005/06.

Alberta and Saskatchewan both moved into surplus positions in fiscal year 1994/95, and have remained there since. In 2005/06, the all-province average was a surplus amounting to 1.0% of GDP. British Columbia's budget update** projects a $1.9 billion surplus in 2007/08 which would be roughly 1.0% of GDP.

Notes: Due to a break in the series reflecting accounting changes to fully comply with GAAP, data from 2000/01 are not directly comparable to earlier years. *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions. ***First Quarterly Report on the Economy, Fiscal Situation, and Outlook, Fiscal Year 2006/07, Three Months, April-June 2006*, British Columbia Ministry of Finance, September 15, 2006.

Surplus* / (Deficit) as a Percent of GDP



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau.

Description

This indicator is a simple measure of whether a provincial or state government is in a deficit or a surplus position, expressed as a percent of GDP. Some caution is necessary in interpreting these results as taxation authority and spending decisions at the State and Provincial level of government differ between Canada and the United States. Also, States essentially have balanced budget requirements, whether the source is constitutional, statutory or traditional interpretation. However, the structure of the Census Bureau data does reflect deficits for some years because it is not based on "funds" as most state accounting systems are and it accounts for all dollars, but only once in the lifetime of the government.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2000/01 2nd	2001/02 4th	2002/03 7th	2003/04 **6th**
1-Year Progress Check	1999/00 - 2000/01 2nd	2000/01 - 2001/02 3rd	2001/02 - 2002/03 7th	2002/03 - 2003/04 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1992/93 - 2000/01 3rd	1992/93 - 2001/02 4th	1993/94 - 2002/03 4th	1994/95 - 2003/04 **7th**

How Does BC Compare?

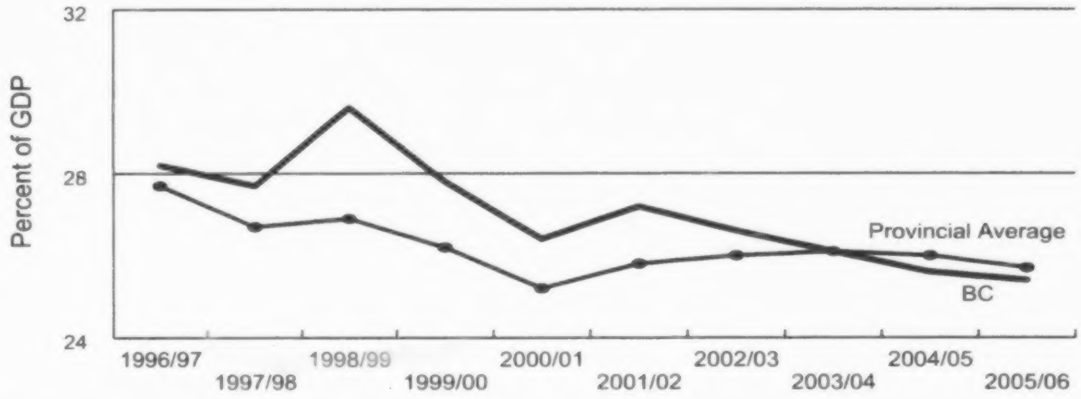
British Columbia earned a sixth place rank in 2003/04, ahead of Ontario but trailing the three states and Alberta and Quebec. Between 1994/95 and 2003/04, BC posted an annual average deficit of 0.5 percent of GDP. This is better than the average deficit in Quebec (0.9%) and Ontario (1.0%) but well behind the average surplus in Alberta (2.0%) and behind Oregon (1.8%), California (1.0%) and Washington State (0.6%).

Notes: *The definition of surplus used here does not necessarily match that in the relevant State. The Progress Board uses the more comprehensive measure provided by the US Census Bureau to approximate the definition used for the provincial data. Canadian data is from Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS) and, therefore, may not exactly match results provided by Finance Ministries.

Performance Indicator **4-7** Supplemental Information: Size of Government

Size of Government

Consolidated Local-Provincial Government Spending as a Percent of GDP, BC and the Provincial Average



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Consolidated local-provincial government spending as a percent of GDP.

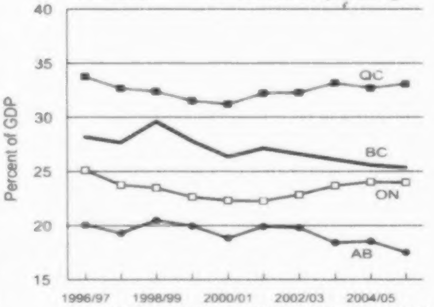
Why it's Important

Research* indicates that the relative size of a country's government sector may negatively affect competitiveness. Increases in the size of government beyond the "optimal point" may produce little in terms of social progress.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002/03 3rd	2003/04 3rd	2004/05 3rd	2005/06 **3rd**
1-Year Progress Check	2001/02 - 2002/03 4th	2002/03 - 2003/04 4th	2003/04 - 2004/05 3rd**	2004/05 - 2005/06 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1993/94 - 2002/03 9th**	1994/95 - 2003/04 10th	1995/96 - 2004/05 6th**	1996/97 - 2005/06 **6rd**

Provinces - Government Spending

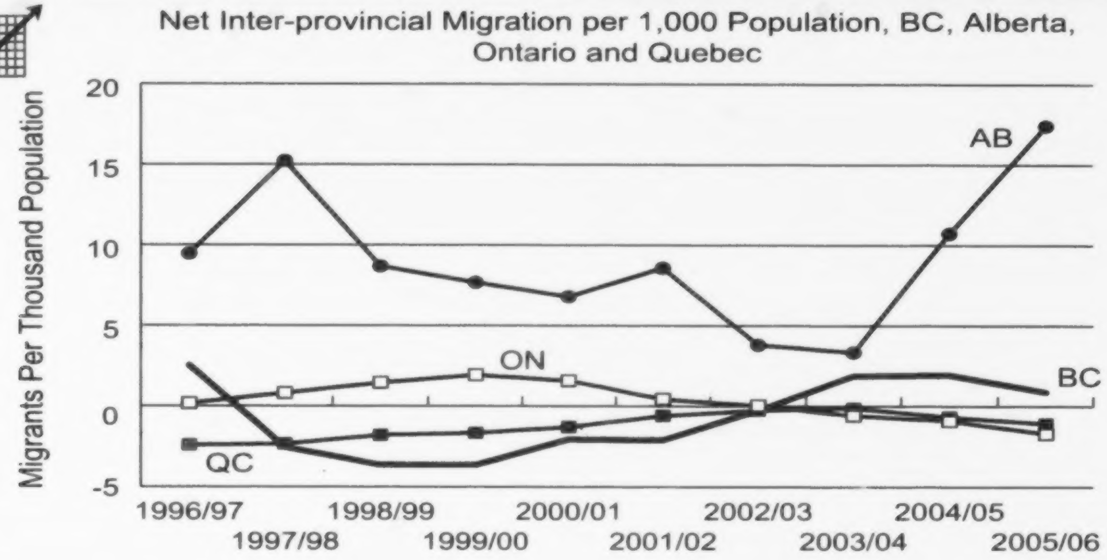


How Does BC Compare?

Although BC ranked 3rd in 2005/06, its government spending as a percent of GDP (25.4%) was above Alberta's (17.5%) and Ontario's (24.0%). Between 1996/97 and 2005/06, BC's government sector shrank by 10.0%, the third-largest decrease in the country. Newfoundland and Labrador government spending as a percent of GDP shrank by 33.1%, Alberta's shrank by 12.7% and Ontario's shrank by 4.5%. Four other provinces had single-digit decreases over the last ten years ranging from 0.4% in Manitoba to 5.7% in Nova Scotia. The two exceptions were Prince Edward Island, which saw government spending as a percent of GDP increase by 1.9% and Saskatchewan with a 2.4% increase.

Notes: *Sources: Tanzi, Vito and Ludger Schuknecht (2000) Public Spending in the 20th Century: A Global Perspective, Cambridge University Press; Tanzi, Vito and L. Schuknecht (1995), The Growth of Government and the Reform of the State in Industrial Countries. IMF Working Paper, December. This indicator uses data from Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS) and, therefore, may not exactly match results provided by Finance Ministries. **Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Performance Indicator 8 Migration Economy, Innovation and Education


Net Inter-provincial Migration per 1,000 Population, BC, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Net inter-provincial migration shows the movement of Canadians from one province to another, expressed as the number of migrants per 1,000 population.

Why it's Important

Net inter-provincial migration can serve as an indicator of a jurisdiction's attractiveness as a place to invest and work. Migration is an important contributing factor to economic growth and in expanding the pool of young, highly skilled workers.

Historically, there has been a correlation between inter-provincial migration flows and the relative economic strengths and weaknesses of a given jurisdiction.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002/03 6th	2003/04 2nd	2004/05 2nd	2005/06 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2001/02 - 2002/03 3rd	2002/03 - 2003/04 1st	2003/04 - 2004/05 2nd*	2004/05 - 2005/06 **7th**
Period Progress Rank	1993/94 - 2002/03 10th	1994/95 - 2003/04 10th	1995/96 - 2004/05 10th	1996/97 - 2005/06 **8th**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia had strong in-migration in the early 1990s but this flow turned negative in 1997/98. It returned to a positive flow in 2003/04.

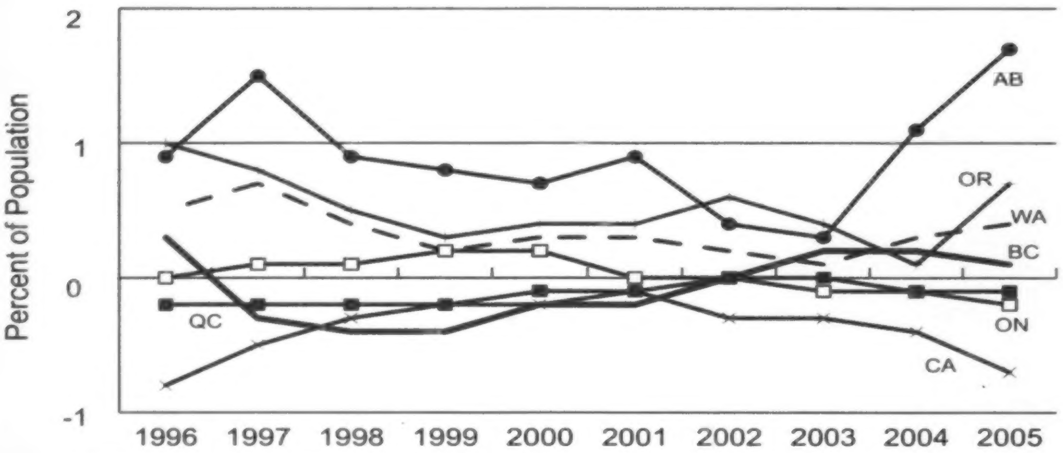
From 1996/97 to 2005/06, BC posted an annual average decrease of 0.7 people per 1,000 population. BC gained 9,880 migrants in 1996/97 and 19,858 from 2003/04 on, but lost 57,002 between 1997/98 and 2002/03. Alberta led Canada with an average annual increase of 9.2 people per 1,000 population over the 1996/97 to 2005/06 period.

Over the 1996/97 through 2005/06 period, BC lost 27,264 people to other provinces. British Columbia gained 7,865 people in 2003/04, 8,214 in 2004/05 and 3,779 in 2005/06 but lost at least 8,286 people and as many as 14,610 per year between 1997/98 and 2001/02. Alberta gained 277,965 people from other provinces between 1996/97 and 2005/06, the largest increase of any province. Ontario (35,399) and Prince Edward Island (287) complete the list of provinces with a net inter-provincial gain of people during this period. Quebec lost 89,166 people to other provinces; Saskatchewan lost 62,494; Newfoundland and Labrador lost 47,215; Manitoba lost 46,687; New Brunswick lost 17,095; and, Nova Scotia lost 14,494.

Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Net Inter-Provincial (Inter-State) Migration

Net Inter-Provincial (Inter-State) Migration as a Percent of Population



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau.

Description:

This measure presents net inter-provincial (inter-state) migration as a percent of the population of the respective province (state). A ratio above zero indicates that more people moved into the province (state) from other provinces (states) than people moved out. The province (state) is seen as a relatively attractive location to live and work if it has a high value for this indicator. A ratio below zero indicates a net decline in the population from inter-provincial (inter-state) migration. In this case the province (state) is seen as a less desirable place to live and work.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2002 6th	2003 3rd	2004 3rd	2005 **4th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 2nd	2002-2003 1st	2003-2004 3rd*	2004-2005 **6th**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 7th	1994-2003 5th	1995-2004 6th	1996-2005 **7th**

How Does BC Compare?

BC had a downward trend in net inter-provincial migration from the 1992 peak of 1.16% of population to a trough of negative 0.36% in 1998 and 1999. Losses decreased slightly to 0.21% in 2000 and 2001 and to 0.03 in 2002. British Columbia gained population from other provinces in 2003 for the first time since 1996 and also gained in 2004 and 2005. British Columbia ranked 4th for net inter-provincial (inter-state) migration in 2005, down from 3rd in 2003 and 2004 but a significant improvement from 6th in 2002 and 7th in 2001.

British Columbia's total population grew by 29.4% between 1990 and 2005 compared to 28.7% in Alberta, 28.2% in Washington State and 8.5% in Quebec.

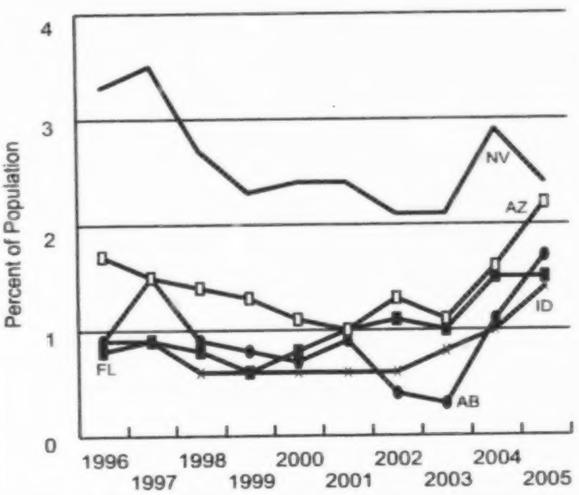
Notes: US state values from 1990 through 1999 are based on the 1990 Census; subsequent years are based on the 2000 Census. The 2000 values for the States are interpolated from the 1999 and 2001 values. Net domestic migration data (the US Census Bureau's inter-state migration indicator) are only available for one quarter in 2000, rather than the usual full year. *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Net Inter-Provincial (Inter-State) Migration

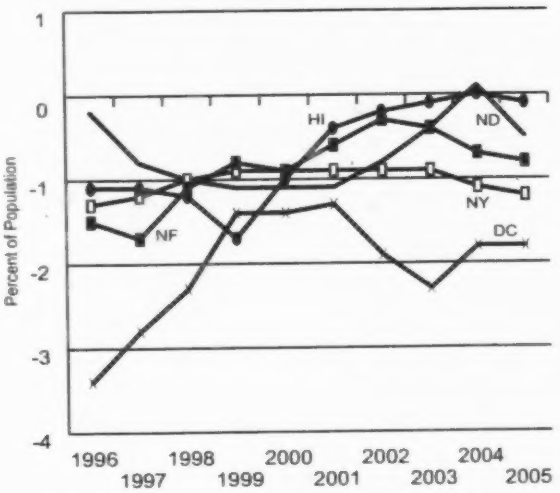
How Does BC Compare?
British Columbia placed 28th among the 61 subnational jurisdictions on this indicator in 2005. The top five jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their 2004 to 2005 net inter-provincial or -state migration values were: Nevada (2.4%), Arizona (2.2%), Florida (1.5%), Alberta (1.7%), and Idaho (1.4%).

The bottom five jurisdictions were: North Dakota (-0.5%), Hawaii (-0.1%), Newfoundland & Labrador (-0.9%), New York (-1.2%) and the District of Columbia (-1.8%).

Net Inter-Provincial (Inter-State) Migration
Top Five Jurisdictions in North America



Net Inter-Provincial (Inter-State) Migration
Bottom Five Jurisdictions in North America



Net Migration as a Proportion of the Population

	1991	1995	2000	2005	2005 Rank	1996 - 2005 Average	Rank for 1996 - 2005 Average
Nevada	4.1	3.5	2.4	2.4	1	2.6	1
Arizona	0.5	2.5	1.2	2.2	2	1.4	2
Florida	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.5	4	1.0	3
Alberta	0.1	0.3	0.7	1.7	3	0.9	4
Idaho	1.6	1.6	0.6	1.4	5	0.8	5
British Columbia	**1.1**	**0.6**	**(0.2)**	**0.1**	**28**	**(0.1)**	**33**
North Dakota	(1.2)	(0.2)	(1.1)	(0.5)	49	(0.7)	57
Hawaii	(0.2)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(0.1)	38	(0.7)	58
Newfoundland & Labrador	(0.3)	(1.3)	(0.9)	(0.9)	56	(0.9)	59
New York	(1.2)	(1.2)	(0.9)	(1.2)	60	(1.0)	60
District of Columbia	(3.0)	(3.4)	(1.4)	(1.8)	61	(2.0)	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

Population Changes in BC

Between 1990 and 2006, BC enjoyed the second-highest growth in overall population among the provinces, with growth of 31.0%, bettered by Alberta (32.5%) but well ahead of third place Ontario (23.2%) and the Canadian average (17.8%). British Columbia's population grew by 14.8% between 1990 and 1995, by 6.9% between 1995 and 2000, and by 6.7% between 2000 and 2006. British Columbia experienced a net outflow of people to other provinces in every year between 1997/98 and 2002/03 as the BC economy entered a slower growth phase and key competitors Alberta and Ontario improved their relative performance. Net interprovincial migration to BC turned positive again in 2003/04 and remained positive in 2004/05 and 2005/06.

Population Changes

	1990 - 1995		1995 - 2000		2000 - 2006		1990 - 2006	
	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change
BC	**486,190**	**14.8**	**262,194**	**6.9**	**271,254**	**6.7**	**1,019,638**	**31.0**
AB	187,349	7.4	270,425	9.9	370,823	12.3	828,597	32.5
ON	652,101	6.3	735,404	6.7	1,001,572	8.6	2,389,077	23.2
QC	215,570	3.1	137,583	1.9	294,502	4.0	647,655	9.2
Canada	1,604,561	5.8	1,386,944	4.7	1,934,455	6.3	4,925,960	17.8

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

Although BC's population grew in every year between 1990 and 2005, some BC regions have seen population outflows recently. Two out of eight Development Regions experienced absolute population declines during 1997 through 2005. The North Coast declined the most, registering a 7.9% drop, while the Mainland-Southwest grew by 10.5% and the Thompson-Okanagan grew by 7.9%. This contrasts with positive – though uneven – population growth in all eight Development Regions between 1990 and 1997, ranging from more than 22% in the Mainland-Southwest and Thompson-Okanagan to a low of 5.6% in the North Coast. All of BC's Development Regions saw population growth in 2003 and 2004 but the Cariboo and North Coast lost people in 2005.

BC Population by Development Region

	1990 - 1997		1997 - 2005		1990 - 2005		2005
	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Percent of Total Population
Vancouver Island/Coast	102,465	16.8	33,961	4.8	136,426	22.3	17.6
Mainland/Southwest	413,875	22.5	235,231	10.5	649,106	35.3	58.4
Thompson-Okanagan	92,438	24.1	37,802	7.9	130,240	34.0	12.1
Kootenay	15,735	11.5	2,395	1.6	18,130	13.2	3.6
Cariboo	19,143	12.3	(2,552)	(1.5)	16,591	10.7	4.0
North Coast	3,785	5.6	(5,578)	(7.9)	(1,793)	(2.7)	1.5
Nechako	3,956	9.6	84	0.2	4,040	9.8	1.1
Northeast	6,333	10.8	4,635	7.1	10,968	18.7	1.6
British Columbia	**657,730**	**20.0**	**305,978**	**7.8**	**963,708**	**29.3**	

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada

Interprovincial Migration

Statistics Canada recently updated its population projection for Canada, the provinces and the territories. The new report presents the results of six population projection scenarios from 2005 through 2031 for the provinces and territories and up to 2056 for Canada. Projections are based on assumptions that take into account the most recent trends relating to components of population growth, particularly: fertility; mortality; immigration; emigration; and, interprovincial migration.

Of these components, interprovincial migration is the most volatile factor in population projections and with the projected decline in natural increase, migration will become a more important factor in population growth for several provinces.

Assumptions for migration are based on past patterns. Analysis of the 1971-2003 period shows that BC and Alberta gained the most from migration, averaging a net gain of 15,000 and 11,200 people per year. At the other end of the spectrum, Quebec had net negative migration every year and has lost an average of 15,000 people per year. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador generally had net migration losses as well. Net migration was almost balanced for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Ontario's net migration was positive half the time but managed to gain an average of 3,500 people per year.

Due to the considerable uncertainty surrounding future interprovincial migration patterns – which are affected by cyclical (economic recessions) and single events (fishing moratoriums, Quebec referendums) – Statistics Canada developed four possible assumptions for migration patterns.

The *Central-West Assumption* is based on migration patterns observed between 1996 and 2000. This assumption favours Ontario and Alberta and is the least favourable to Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

The *West Coast Assumption* is based on 1988 through 1996 patterns. BC makes its largest population gains and Alberta its smallest under this assumption. Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan suffer their largest losses under this assumption.

The *Recent Trends Assumption* is based on data from 2000-2003, the most recent available at the time of the analysis, and seems to portray a new pattern. Quebec's migration, although still negative, improved over this period and most other provinces also saw improvement. This assumption cuts into Alberta's and Ontario's net gains although the two remain the most attractive destination provinces.

The *Medium Assumption* is an average of the *Recent Trends* and *West Coast* assumptions.

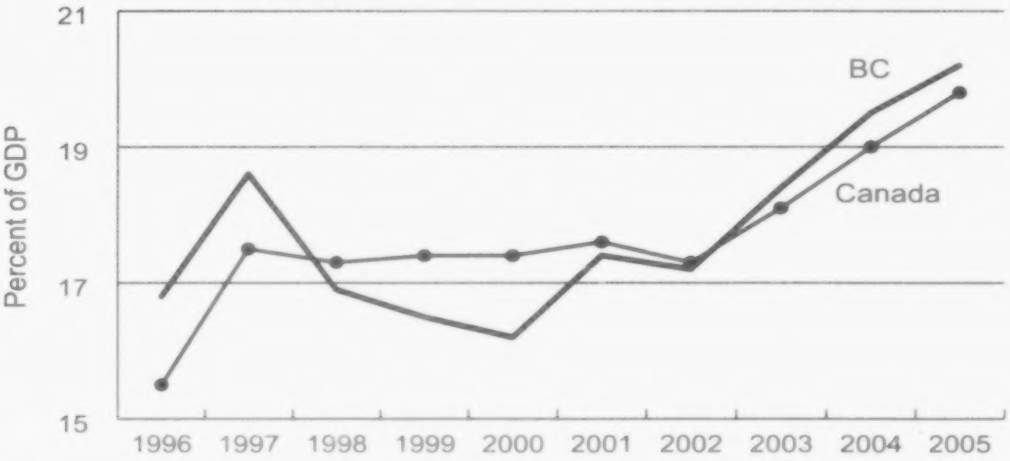
Of the 108 possible projection scenarios created by three assumptions on fertility, mortality and immigration and the four on migration, Statistics Canada chooses six that offer a range of possible population growth scenarios for the provinces and territories. The low and high growth scenarios produce the smallest and largest national populations. These scenarios use, respectively, the low and high assumptions for fertility, life expectancy and immigration and the medium migration assumption. Reflecting the importance of interprovincial migration in the population projection, the other four scenarios use medium assumptions for fertility, life expectancy and immigration and each of the four migration assumptions.

Mean annual population growth in BC is projected to range between 6.2 and 13.7 percent (compared to national figures of 4.5 to 10.0 percent) under the six scenarios which could take BC from an observed population share of 13.2 percent in 2005 to a low of 12.8 percent (scenario 2: medium fertility, life expectancy and immigration with the *Recent* migration assumption) to a high of 15.5 percent (scenario 4: medium fertility, life expectancy and immigration with the *West Coast* migration assumption).

Source: Statistics Canada (2005) Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, cat. # 91-520-XIE.

Performance Indicator 9 Business Investment Economy, Innovation and Education

Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

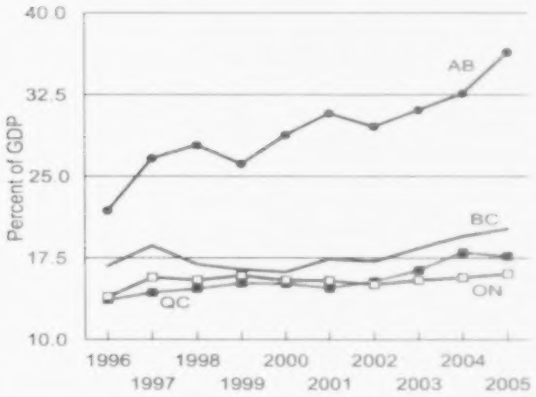
Description

This indicator measures the total amount of gross fixed business investment as a percent of GDP.

It reflects the expenditure by businesses on durable assets and on building and engineering construction. Also included is residential construction by individuals, alterations and improvements made to buildings, and transfer costs on the sale of existing assets.

Factors such as input costs, market conditions, expected rates of return, and government fiscal policy determine a jurisdiction's attractiveness for fixed business investment.

Provinces - Business Investment



Why it's Important

Business investment is perhaps the most important factor contributing to long-term economic growth and higher productivity. Without solid business investment, significant or sustained employment growth is unlikely. Periods of strong business investment are generally followed by faster economic growth and rising incomes.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 5th	2003 5th	2004 3rd	2005 **3rd**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 5th	2002-2003 4th	2003-2004 4th	2004-2005 **5th**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 9th*	1995-2004 10th	1996-2005 **8th**

How Does BC Compare?

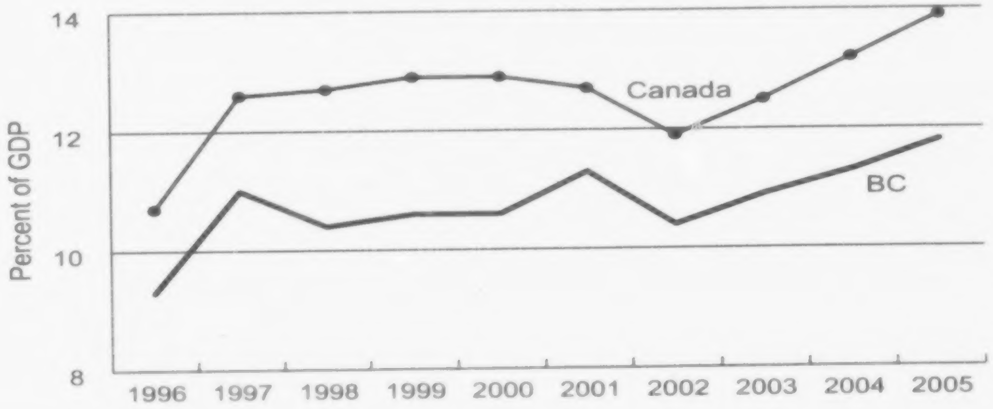
In 2005, business gross fixed capital formation was equal to 20.2% of BC's GDP, above the Canadian average of 19.8%. Alberta led the pack with investment equal to 36.4% of GDP.

BC ranked fifth for growth in this important measure between 2004 and 2005 with a 3.6% improvement, behind Nova Scotia and Manitoba (4.2%), New Brunswick at 7.6%, and Alberta at 11.7%. The national average was a 4.1% increase.

Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Business Non-Residential Investment

Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation (Excluding Residential Structures), BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description:
This indicator measures gross fixed business investment (less residential construction) as a percent of GDP. It reflects the expenditure by businesses on durable assets and on building and engineering construction. Factors such as input costs, market conditions, expected rates of return, and government fiscal policy determine a jurisdiction's attractiveness for fixed business investment.

Business investment is perhaps the most important factor contributing to long-term economic growth and higher productivity. Without solid business investment, significant or sustained employment growth is unlikely. Periods of strong business investment are generally followed by faster economic growth and rising incomes.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 6th	2003 7th	2004 9th*	**2005** **7th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 9th*	2002-2003 7th	2003-2004 7th*	2004-2005 **5th**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 8th	1994-2003 7th	1995-2004 9th	1996-2005 **7th**

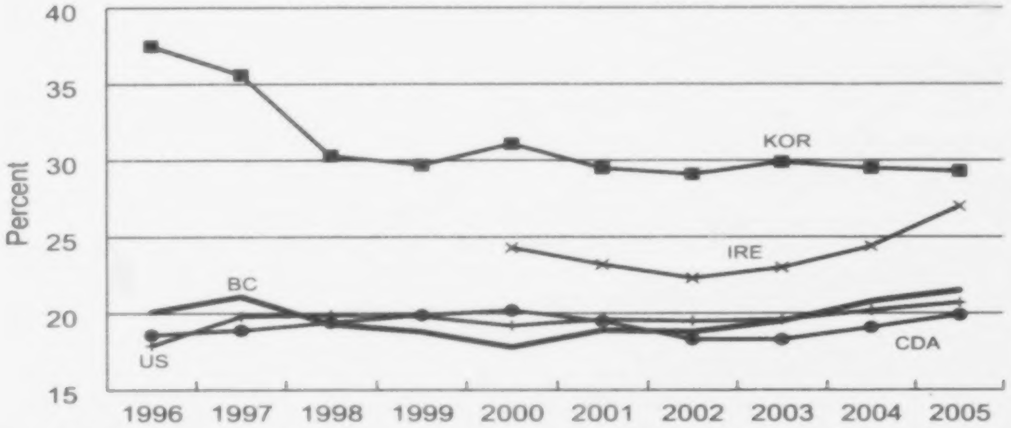
How Does BC Compare?
In 2005, non-residential business investment was equal to 11.8% of BC's GDP, below the Canadian average of 13.9%. Alberta led the pack with investment equal to 30.9% of GDP.

Between 2004 and 2005, BC saw an increase of 4.3% in non-residential business investment as a percent of GDP, which earned a fifth rank. Canada saw an increase of 5.8% between 2004 and 2005. The largest 2004-2005 increases were in Alberta (12.5%), New Brunswick (9.8%) and Nova Scotia (5.2%). Two provinces had decreases in non-residential investment as a percentage of GDP between 2004 and 2005: Newfoundland and Labrador (0.2%) and Quebec (0.7%).

Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation

Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD.

Description:

In general, gross fixed capital formation is measured by the total value of a producer's acquisitions, less disposals, of fixed assets during the accounting period. This topic box considers total as well as business sector gross fixed investment as a percent of GDP. The provincial comparison in Performance Indicator 9 discusses business sector investment only. Both total and business investment are discussed here because many of the OECD countries do not report separate business sector investment.

Table 1: Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP

	1995	2000	2005	Rank for 2005 (of 30)	1999 - 2005 Average	Rank for 1999 - 2005 Average (of 30)
British Columbia	**21.1**	**17.8**	**21.5**	**12**	**18.7**	**28**
Canada	17.6	19.2	20.7	15	19.5	22
Finland	16.7	19.7	19.2	25	19.3	23
Ireland	n/a	24.3	27.0	4	23.2	8
Japan	28.0	25.2	23.2	9	24.3	6
Korea	37.3	31.1	29.3	2	29.9	1
Mexico	16.1	21.4	19.3	24	20.1	17
Netherlands	n/a	n/a	19.5	23	20.1	18
New Zealand	21.8	21.2	23.8	8	21.1	14
Norway	19.9	18.6	18.7	26	18.9	26
Switzerland	23.3	22.8	21.3	13	21.9	11
United Kingdom	16.3	17.0	16.6	30	16.6	30
United States	18.2	20.2	19.9	19	19.2	24
OECD	19.0	21.5	23.3	n/a	21.2	n/a

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Continued on following page

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (continued)

British Columbia is a middling performer on Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a percent of GDP (Table 1) when compared to OECD countries. In 2005, BC's ratio of 21.5% earned it a rank of twelfth out of the 30 jurisdictions with data. Over the period 1999 through 2005, BC averaged a ratio of 18.7% which resulted in a rank of twenty-eighth.

Spain placed first on this indicator in 2005 with a ratio of 29.4%. Korea placed second with a ratio of 29.3% and also had the highest 1999 through 2005 average of 29.9%. Over the period 1999 through 2005, the Slovak Republic ranked second with an average ratio of 27.5%, the Czech Republic ranked third (27.1%), Spain ranked fourth (25.9%) and Portugal ranked fifth (25.6%).

Only fifteen of the thirty OECD countries regularly report Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) for the government and business sectors separately. These data show British Columbia posts strong performance on business sector GFCF as a percent of GDP (Table 2).

Table 2: Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP

	1995	2000	2005	Rank for 2005 (of 15)	1999 - 2005 Average	Rank for 1999 - 2005 Average (of 15)
British Columbia	**18.3**	**15.3**	**18.8**	3	**17.0**	6
Canada	15.0	16.9	18.2	5	17.4	5
Finland	13.9	17.1	16.3	8	16.4	7
Japan	19.9	18.4	18.5	4	17.8	2
Mexico	12.4	17.8	15.0	13	16.0	10
Netherlands	n/a	n/a	15.4	11	15.9	11
New Zealand	18.8	18.1	18.8	2	17.7	3
Norway	16.7	15.9	16.0	9	15.9	12
United Kingdom	14.8	15.9	13.5	15	14.8	13
United States	15.0	17.1	16.7	6	16.1	8

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

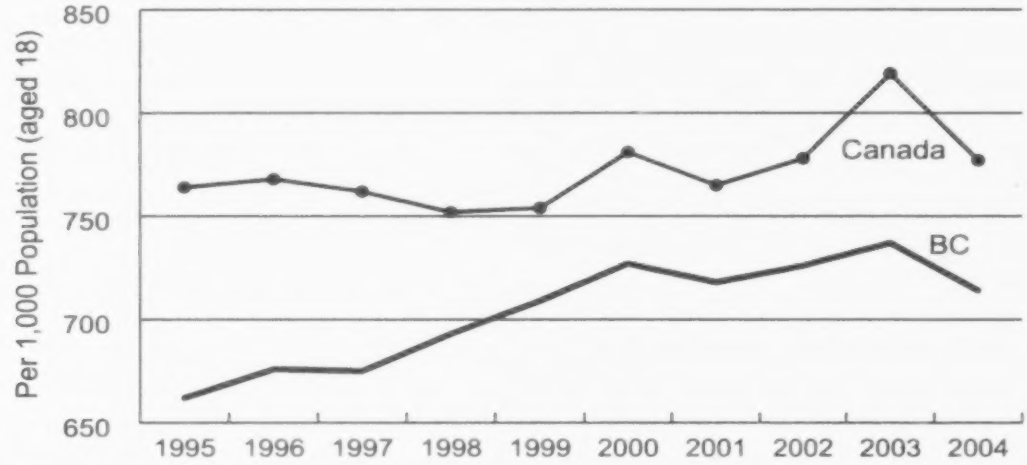
In 2005, BC's ratio of 18.8% earned it a rank of third out of the sixteen jurisdictions with data. Over the period 1999 through 2005, BC averaged a ratio of 17.0% which resulted in a rank of sixth.

Among the jurisdictions which reported detailed GFCF data, Australia placed first on this indicator in 2005 with a ratio of 23.8%; it also had the highest 1999 through 2005 average of 22.1%. Over the period 1999 through 2005, Japan ranked second with an average ratio of 17.8%, New Zealand ranked third (17.7%), Germany ranked fourth (17.4%) and Canada ranked fifth (17.4%).

Notes: The data discussed in this international comparison differ from that presented in the Canadian comparisons. The OECD calculates this ratio using nominal data while Performance Indicator 9 makes use of real data. See Appendix C for more information.

Performance Indicator 10 Secondary School Graduates Economy, Innovation and Education

Secondary School Graduates per 1,000 Population (aged 18), BC and Canada*



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

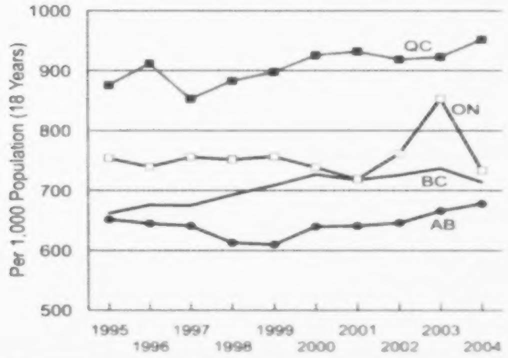
Description

This indicator measures the number of secondary school graduates per 1,000 population aged 18 years (at July 1 each year).

Why it's Important

Levels of education tend to correlate strongly with future personal prosperity and well-being. With the "knowledge" content of most jobs steadily increasing, high school graduation or better is generally deemed essential as a base qualification for "higher learning" and entry level employment.

Provinces - Secondary School Graduates



Where BC Ranks

By Province*	2001 9th	2002 8th	2003 8th**	2004 **8th**
1-Year Progress Check*	2000-2001 4th**	2001-2002 3rd	2002-2003 6th**	2003-2004 **8th**
Period Progress Rank*	1992-2001 3rd	1993-2002 4th**	1994-2003 4th**	1995-2004 **2nd**

How Does BC Compare?*

Between 1998 and 2004, the number of secondary school graduates per 1,000 18 year olds in BC grew by 3.1% to 714, the fourth largest increase in Canada. Alberta had 10.5% growth (from 613 to 678) and Manitoba had 8.5% growth (from 758 to 822).

The number of secondary school graduates for every 1,000 18 year olds fell in five provinces between 1998 and 2004. Newfoundland and Labrador had a 10.0% decrease, followed by Prince Edward Island at 9.5% and New Brunswick at 4.9%.

Related BC Progress Board Research

The BC Progress Board publication **Working Together to Improve Performance: Preparing BC's Public Education System for the Future** provides an overview of BC's education system and makes suggestions for improvement. See: www.bcprogressboard.com.

Notes: There may be slight variations between graduation rates contained in this report and those reported by provincial Ministries of Education. Data used in this indicator are made comparable across jurisdictions by Statistics Canada. *This analysis is based on two data series. For most provinces, the original series covers 1995-1997 and the new covers 1998-2004. For Ontario and Canada, 1998 and 1999 values are from the original data series. The two series are close but we treat them as seperate series in the analysis. Statistics Canada does not plan to do any further historical revisions of these data. **Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Education Spending and Outcomes

British Columbia spends more, on a per student basis, than most other provinces. In the last seven years, BC's real spending ($1992) was the highest in two, second-highest in four and third-highest in one. On average, British Columbia spent $6,888 per student (in 1992 dollars) between 1997/98 and 2003/04, followed by Quebec at $6,769 and Ontario at $6,763. The lowest spending provinces, on average between 1997/98 and 2003/04 were Nova Scotia at $5,790, Saskatchewan at $5,688 and Prince Edward Island at $5,544.

British Columbia's per student spending was $156 less than Manitoba's and $121 less than Quebec's in 2003/04 and ahead of spending in the other provinces with margins ranging from $31 over Ontario to $1,227 over Nova Scotia. Real per student spending in British Columbia increased by $461 (7.0%) between 1997/98 and 2003/04. Spending increases in the other provinces range from $226 (3.2%) in Ontario to $1,382 (26.7%) per student in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Total Expenditures in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, per capita, $1992

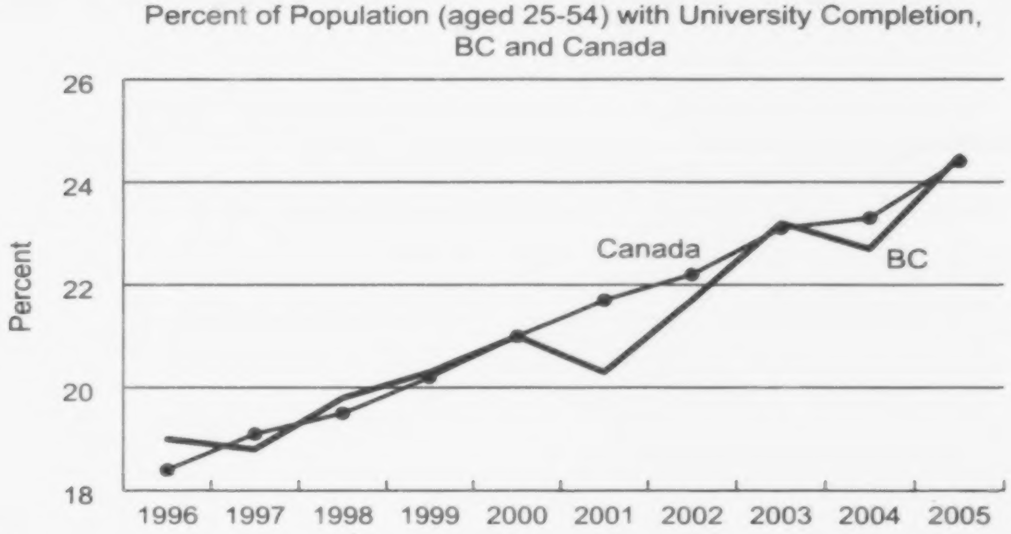
					1997/98 - 2003/04			
	1997/98	2000/01	2003/04	2003/04 Rank	Average	Rank for Average	Percent Change	Rank for Percent Change
BC	**6,568**	**6,922**	**7,029**	**3**	**6,888**	**1**	**7.0**	**9**
AB	5,847	6,306	6,629	6	6,316	6	13.4	7
SK	5,167	5,449	6,493	8	5,688	9	25.7	3
MB	6,156	6,693	7,185	1	6,621	4	16.7	4
ON	6,772	6,726	6,998	4	6,763	3	3.3	10
QC	6,268	6,883	7,150	2	6,769	2	14.1	5
NB	6,021	6,063	6,832	5	6,318	5	13.5	6
NS	5,126	6,881	5,802	10	5,790	8	13.2	8
PE	4,890	5,676	6,179	9	5,544	10	26.4	2
NF	5,175	5,560	6,557	7	5,815	7	26.7	1
Canada	6,374	6,669	6,953	n/a	6,643	n/a	9.1	n/a

Source: Statistics Canada, Summary Public School Indicators

As with health care spending and outcomes (discussed on page 106 of this volume), a simple review of per student spending levels and education outcome measures does not suggest any clear causal relationship between spending and outcomes. In Alberta, with sixth-highest average spending, students ranked first in comparisons among forty countries on math, reading, science and problem solving and generally well on recent Canadian tests. New Brunswick, with fifth-highest average spending, ranked ninth on the international comparisons and seventh or eighth on three of the four Canadian comparisons.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Summary Public School Indicators for the Provinces and Territories, 1997-1998 to 2003-2004, August 2006; Statistics Canada, Linking Provincial Student Assessments with National and International Assessments, May 2003; Statistics Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, Education Indicators in Canada, Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program 2005, April 2006.

Performance Indicator 11 University Completion Economy, Innovation and Education


Percent of Population (aged 25-54) with University Completion, BC and Canada

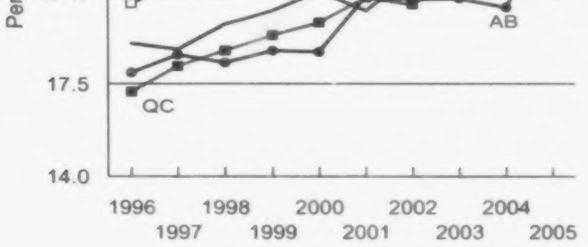
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the percentage of the population aged 25 to 54 that has attained a university education.

Why it's Important

Although there are many different forms of post-secondary credentialing, university completion is an important indication of a jurisdiction's success in building the high level academic, managerial and entrepreneurial skills necessary in today's knowledge driven economy.


Provinces - University Completion

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 2nd	2003 2nd	2004 2nd	2005 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 2nd	2002-2003 3rd	2003-2004 8th*	2004-2005 **2nd**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 1st	1994-2003 1st	1995-2004 7th	1996-2005 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2005, 24.5% of BC's population (aged 25-54) had completed a university education. British Columbia ranked second behind Ontario at 27.2% and ahead of Alberta (23.9%) and Quebec (23.3%). The Canadian average in 2005 was 24.4%.

All provinces experienced growth in the proportion of people with university completion over the 1996 to 2005 period. The smallest average annual increase was 1.5% in Prince Edward Island; the largest, 3.2% was in British Columbia. The Canadian average was an increase of 3.0% per year.

Related BC Progress Board Research

The December 7, 2005 BC Progress Board publication **The Role of International Education: Expanding Student Opportunity and Economic Development in British Columbia** discusses the importance of international education in expanding student opportunity, while helping the province to address forthcoming skilled worker shortages and funding challenges in some BC education institutions. See: www.bcprogressboard.com.

Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

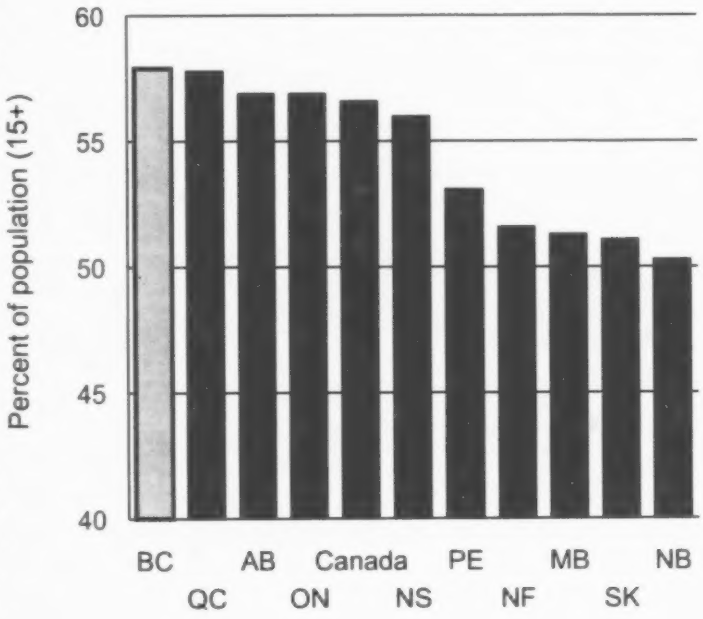
Post-Secondary Education and Trades Training

The proportion of the Canadian population with some post-secondary education, regardless of credential status, has increased significantly since 1990. The proportion in Canada has increased by 15.0 percentage points, from 41.6 percent in 1990 to 56.6 percent in 2005. The proportion has not increased as quickly in BC, but BC's proportion (57.9%) was 1.3 percentage points above the national average in 2005. Post-secondary attainment (population aged 15+) in British Columbia consisted of the following in 2005: 11.4 percent of the population had some post-secondary education; an additional 27.8 percent had a post-secondary certificate or diploma; and, 18.7 percent had a university degree (bachelor's or higher).

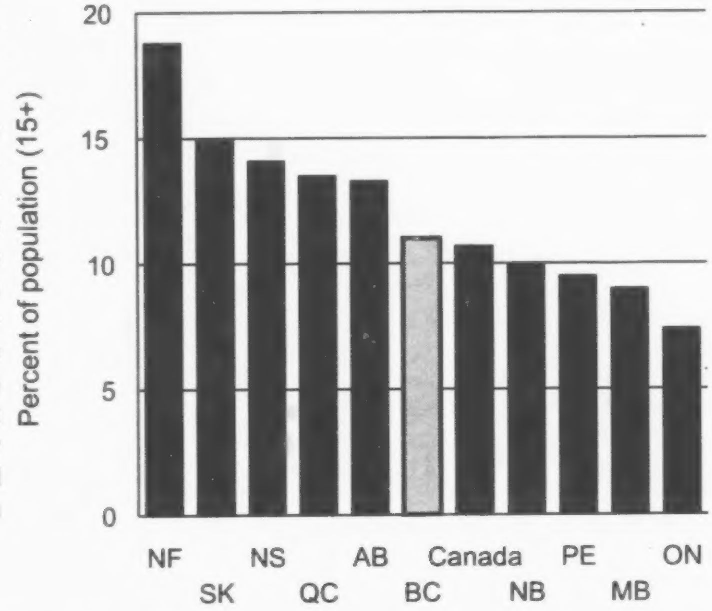
Statistics Canada tracks education attainment by province in the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Education attainment breakdowns are available for the following categories: 0-8 years (i.e., primary); some high school; high school graduate; some post-secondary education (but no degree or certificate awarded); post-secondary certificate or diploma; and, university degree. Other more detailed breakdowns are available from Statistics Canada.

Of particular interest is the proportion of the population with a *trade certificate or diploma from a vocational school or apprenticeship training*, (referred to hereafter as trades training). In 2005, 10.7 percent of Canadians aged fifteen and older had recognized trades training. The ratio in BC was an above average 11.0 percent, which earned a sixth place rank. The highest proportion (18.8%) was in Newfoundland and Labrador. Second rank went to Saskatchewan (15.0%), followed by Nova Scotia (15.0%), Alberta (14.1%) and Quebec (13.5%). The lowest proportion (7.4%) was in Ontario.

Post-Secondary Education in Canada, 2005

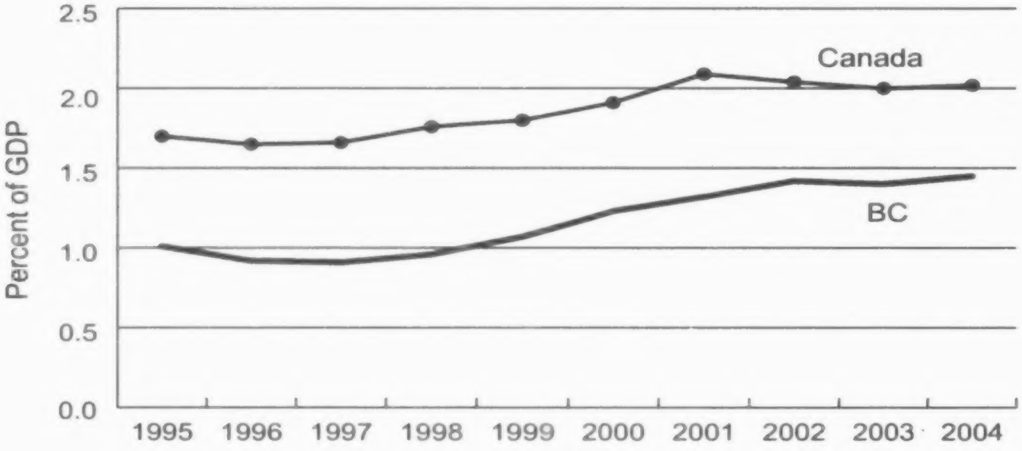


Trades Training in Canada, 2005



Performance Indicator 12 R & D Economy, Innovation and Education

R & D Spending as a Percent of GDP, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

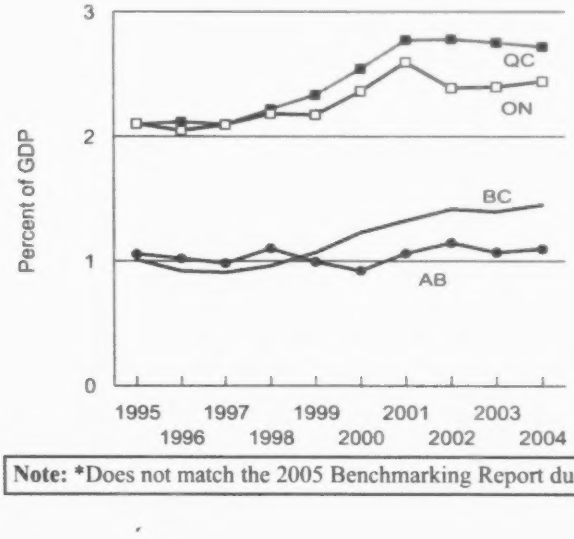
Description

This indicator measures how much is spent on research and development in relation to GDP. It includes the sum of expenditures reported by (or estimated for) the various sectors involved in research and development – government, business, higher education and not-for-profit organizations.

Why it's Important

Spending on research and development (R&D) is a key factor in innovation and the creation of new wealth.

Provinces - R&D Spending



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 5th	2002 4th	2003 4th	2004 **4th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 5th*	2001-2002 3rd*	2002-2003 5th	2003-2004 **3rd**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 3rd	1993-2002 2nd*	1994-2003 2nd	1995-2004 **2nd**

How Does BC Compare?

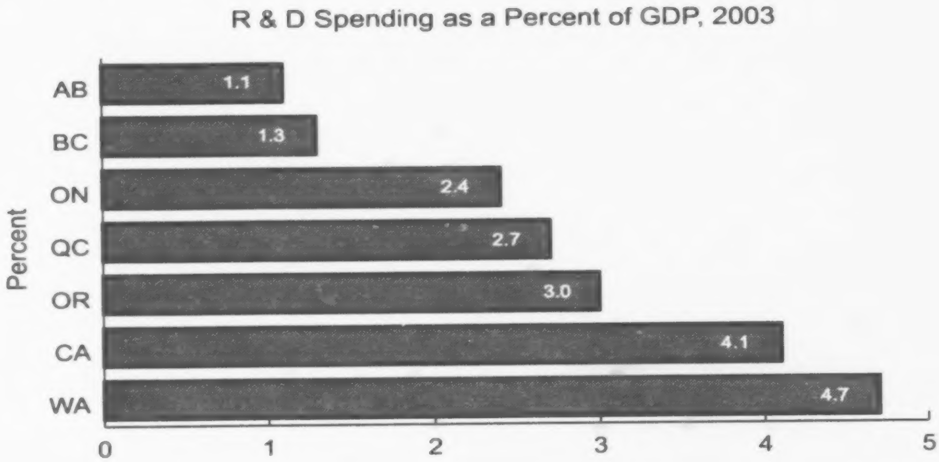
In 2004, spending on research and development as a percent of GDP in BC (1.45%) trailed Quebec (2.74%), Ontario (2.44%) and Nova Scotia (1.49%). The relative gap between R&D spending in BC and the Canadian average has decreased from 40.4% in 1995 to 28.1% in 2004.

Over the period 1995 to 2004, nine provinces saw their ratio of R&D spending to GDP increase. The largest increases were in Prince Edward Island (65.3%), British Columbia (43.3%) and Quebec (30.7%). Newfoundland and Labrador saw a decrease of 7.6%.

In 2004, $7.2 billion was expended on R&D in Quebec, compared to $2.3 billion in BC and $2.1 billion in Alberta. Ontario led the way with $12.6 billion in that year.

Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Research and Development as a Percent of GDP



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US National Science Foundation.

Description

This measure is the ratio of research and development (R&D) expenditures to GDP. Economies with higher levels of research and development may experience more rapid economic growth (than economies with low R&D expenditures) as new products are developed along with processes that increase the economy's productivity.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2000 6th	2001 6th	2002 6th	2003 **6th**
1-Year Progress Check	1999-2000 2nd	2000-2001 5th	2001-2002 1st*	2002-2003 **6th**
Period Progress Rank	1991-2000 5th	1992-2001 4th	1993-2002 2nd*	1994-2003 **2nd**

R&D Expenditure, 1994 - 2003

	Average Annual Growth (Percent)	Average Ratio (Percent of GDP)
Quebec	3.0	2.4
Ontario	1.4	2.2
Alberta	0.7	1.0
British Columbia	3.6	1.1
California	0.4	4.0
Oregon	11.3	2.0
Washington	2.2	4.2

How Does BC Compare?

Average spending on R&D as a percent of GDP in BC is roughly one-half of the spending in Quebec and Ontario and less than one-third of the spending in Washington State and California. British Columbia's R&D spending was 1.3% of GDP in 2003 which earned it a 6th place rank, ahead of only Alberta at 1.1%.

Between 1994 and 2003, R&D spending as a percent of GDP averaged 1.1 percent of GDP in BC, bettering only Alberta. However, BC posted a 3.6 percent average annual growth rate in R&D to GDP, second only to Oregon among the jurisdictions reviewed.

Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

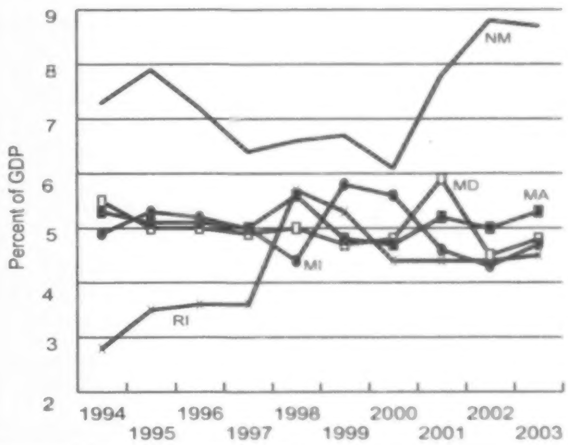
Research and Development as a Percent of GDP

How Does BC Compare?

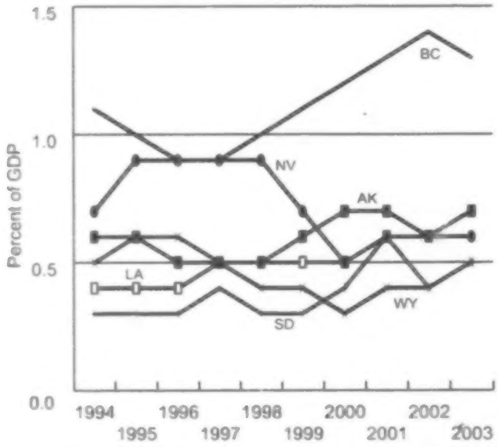
British Columbia placed 39th among the 61 subnational jurisdictions on this indicator in 2003 with a ratio of 1.4 percent of GDP and 38th for its 1999 to 2003 average ratio of 1.3 percent. The top five jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their 1999 to 2003 average values for R&D spending as a percent of GDP were: New Mexico (7.6%), Massachusetts (5.0%), Michigan (5.0%), Maryland (4.9%) and Rhode Island (4.6%).

The bottom five jurisdictions were: Nevada (0.6%), Arkansas (0.6%), Louisiana (0.6%), Wyoming (0.4%) and South Dakota (0.4%).

R&D Spending as a Percent of GDP
Top Five Jurisdictions in North America



R&D Spending as a Percent of GDP, BC and the
Bottom Five Jurisdictions in North America



R&D Expenditures as a Percent of GDP

	1990	1995	2000	2003	2003 Rank	1999 - 2003 Average	Rank for 1999 - 2003 Average
New Mexico	9.8	7.9	6.1	8.7	1	7.6	1
Massachusetts	4.7	5.3	5.6	5.3	4	5.0	2
Michigan	5.2	5.1	4.7	4.7	2	5.0	3
Maryland	4.7	5.0	4.8	4.8	3	4.9	4
Rhode Island	2.1	3.5	4.4	4.5	6	4.6	5
BC	**1.0**	**1.0**	**1.2**	**1.4**	**39**	**1.3**	**38**
Nevada	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.6	57	0.6	57
Arkansas	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.7	59	0.6	58
Louisiana	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	58	0.6	59
Wyoming	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	60	0.4	60
South Dakota	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.5	61	0.4	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US National Science Foundation

R & D Spending as a Percent of GDP

Description:

This measure is the ratio of research and development (R&D) expenditures to GDP. Economies with higher levels of research and development are likely to experience more rapid economic growth (than economies with low R&D expenditures) as new products are developed along with processes that increase the economy's productivity.

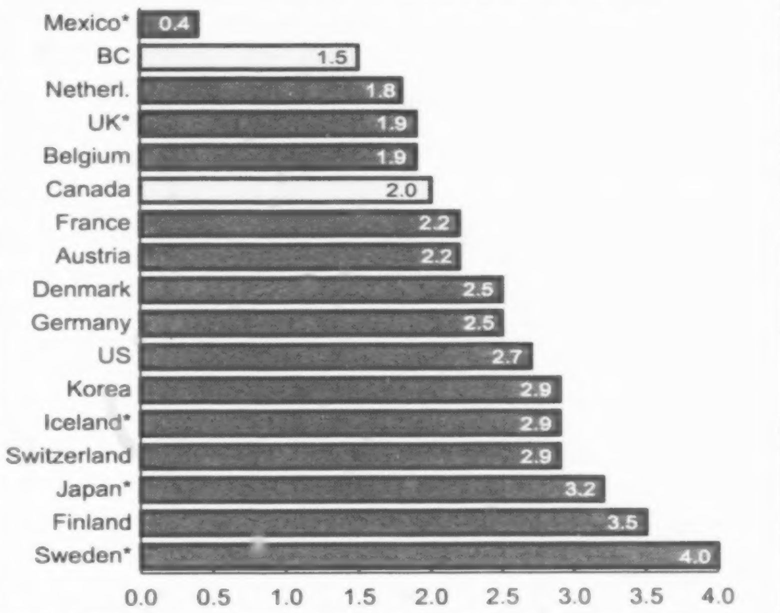
How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia is a middling performer on Research and Development (R&D) as a percent of GDP in comparison to OECD countries. BC ranked 19th out of thirty-one jurisdictions for R&D to GDP in 2004 and 20th for average R&D expenditures between 1995 and 2004. R&D spending as a percent of GDP has been increasing in BC since 1997 and the ratio has been above BC's ten year average since 2000. Among OECD jurisdictions, BC ranked 7th for percentage point growth in R&D as a percent of GDP between 1995 and 2004.

Canada ranked higher than BC on the 2004 level and the 1995 through 2004 average level of R&D spending as a percent of GDP. Canada ranked 13th for average annual R&D expenditures as a percent of GDP between 1995 and 2004 and 12th for R&D spending in 2004.

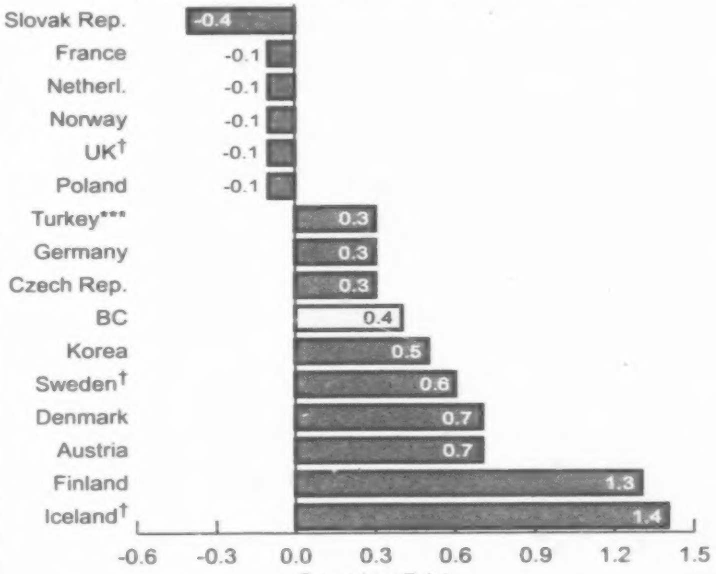
Turning to Canada's main trading partner, the **United States** had the 7th highest R&D spending ratio in 2004 (2.68%)

R&D as a Percent of GDP, 2004



Note: *=2003 Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Growth in R&D as a Percent of GDP, 1995-2004
Top Ten and Bottom Five Performers



Notes: †=1995-2003; ***=1995-2002 Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics; OECD

Continued on following page.

R & D Spending as a Percent of GDP (continued)

and the 5th highest average level of R&D spending as a percent of GDP over the period 1995 through 2004 (2.64%) behind **Sweden** (1st at 3.73%), **Finland** (2nd at 3.07%), **Japan** (3rd at 2.97%) and **Switzerland** (4th at 2.73%).,

Although the United States ranked 7th for R&D spending as a percent of GDP it was responsible for 43.2 percent of all R&D conducted by OECD members in 2004. Japan had the next highest share at 16.2 percent, followed by Germany (8.1%), France (5.5%), and the United Kingdom (4.6%). Canada accounted for 2.8 percent of OECD R&D which earned the 7th place rank behind Korea (at 4.0%).

R&D as a Percent of GDP

	1990	1995	2004	Rank for 2004 (of 31)	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average (of 31)
British Columbia	**0.97**	**1.01**	**1.45**	**19**	**1.17**	**20**
Canada	1.53	1.72	1.99	12	1.88	13
Finland	1.86	2.26	3.51	2	3.07	2
Ireland	0.82	1.26	1.20	21	1.19	19
Japan	2.97	2.90	3.15*	3	2.97	3
Korea (South)	1.84††	2.37	2.85	6	2.49	6
Mexico	n/a	0.31	1.75	31	0.38	31
Netherlands	1.98	1.91	1.78	15	1.85	15
New Zealand	0.98	0.95	1.14*	22	1.06	22
Norway	1.64††	1.70	1.61	18	1.66	17
Switzerland	2.59†††	2.67‡	2.94	4	2.73	4
United Kingdom	2.15	1.95	1.88*	14	1.87†	14
United States	2.65	2.51	2.68	7	2.64	5
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes: ††=1991; †††=1992; ‡‡‡=1994; ‡=1996; **=2001; ‡‡=2002; *=2003; ***=1995-2002; †=1995-2003.

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Notes: Many OECD countries only report on this indicator every two or three years. Notations (in the form of * and †) are included when a country's value for a particular year differs from that indicated in the column header. These notations are consistent throughout the tables and figures above and the data table in the appendix.
Notations: ††=1991; †††=1992; ‡‡‡=1994; ‡=1996; **=2001; ‡‡=2002; *=2003; ***=1995-2002; †=1995-2003.

No 1995 - 2004 percentage point change value is not reported for Luxembourg because it has no data prior to 2000.

R&D in Canada and British Columbia

Research and development (R&D) leads to innovation and ultimately productivity improvements and economic growth. The importance of R&D is widely recognized but the best policies to encourage it remain up for debate. Research and development spending in BC has long lagged behind Ontario and Quebec in both absolute and relative terms. British Columbia accounted for only 8.8 percent of Gross Domestic Expenditures on R&D (GERD) in Canada in 2004, while Ontario accounted for 48.6 percent and Quebec accounted for 27.7 percent. British Columbia's R&D intensity (GERD relative to GDP) was 1.5 in 2004, while Ontario and Quebec had ratios of 2.3 and 2.7, respectively.

A recent OECD study found that one of the strongest economic growth determinants among member countries was the level of BERD intensity (Business Expenditure on R&D as a percent of GDP). The same study found no statistically significant effect from public R&D spending. BC ranked third among provinces for the percent of R&D performed by the business sector in every year between 1990 and 2004 with an average ratio of 54.1 percent. However, Canada as a whole does not perform well in international rankings, earning the 20th rank in the OECD with 54.0 percent of GERD performed by the business sector. BC earned the 17th rank in 2004, well below the OECD average of 67.9 percent.

Related BC Progress Board Research

The April 10, 2006 BC Progress Board publication **Boosting Incomes, Confronting Demographic Change: BC's Productivity Imperative** puts BC's productivity performance in context, and outlines some key policy areas to improve provincial productivity. See: www.bcprogressbord.com.

Several factors help explain BC's historical underperformance, including:

- **Reliance on Natural Resources:** the economies of the western provinces have traditionally relied on the natural resources sector. Commercial activity in BC has predominately been concentrated in the forestry industry. This has prevented research-intensive industries from maturing and reaching the critical mass needed to compete outside the province. In most countries, high-tech industries are responsible for the largest share of BERD. In contrast to BC, the economies of Ontario and Quebec are less resource-dependent and have a much more developed manufacturing sector where a large amount for their R&D takes place. Among the provinces, Ontario and Quebec consistently rank 1st and 2nd for both GERD and BERD as a percent of R&D.
- **Large Service Sector:** BC has one of the largest service sectors among the provinces and service industries have low R&D intensity in general. The service sector accounted for 73.2 percent of BC's GDP (at basic prices) in 2005, compared to 69.0 percent for Canada. The high service sector share is attributed to larger than average shares in: health and social assistance; education; finance and real estate; tourism; and, transportation.
- **An Underdeveloped Venture Capital Market:** Western Canada receives only 14 percent of all venture capital in the nation. This is not surprising because venture capital investment is often determined by where it is managed and only 12 percent of all venture capital is managed in Western Canada. In comparison, 87 percent of venture capital funds are managed in Ontario and Quebec. In 2005, Ontario and Quebec received venture capital investments of $751 million and $710 million, respectively – dramatically higher than the $226 million invested in BC.
- **Clusters:** Canadian R&D is largely concentrated in Ontario and Quebec, and even more specifically, within Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. This concentration is also seen in the US

Continued on following page.

R&D in British Columbia (continued)

where California alone accounted for over one-fifth of US R&D in 2003 and the top five states (California, Michigan, Massachussetts, Texus and New York) performed 43.2 percent of the total. As Alberta and BC have the third and fourth largest provincial economies their historically poor R&D performance is a large part of the reason for Canada's weak showing. Fortunately, they both have the necessary supports for R&D – excellent universities, skilled labour, desirable cities, and proximity to US technology clusters – within the GVRD in BC and the Calgary-to-Edmonton Corridor in Alberta.

- **Investment:** Capital expenditures (or capex) are investments by companies in machinery and equipment and buildings. Although capex and R&D spending are often considered seperate they are complimentary. Investment in new machinery and equipment is one way to incorporate innovations discovered through R&D performed by others, either within Canada or outside the country, usually the US. More than two-thirds of world technology diffusion to Canada originates in the US. The gap in investment per worker in Canada and the US is estimated at $3,200 for 2006; investment per worker in Canada roughly matched that in the OECD in the late 1990s but is now estimated to be $1,400 less. Investment per worker in BC in 2006 was 70 percent of the US level and 81 percent of the OECD level. Among the provinces only Newfoundland and Labrador (121%) and Alberta (178%) enjoy investment levels above the US.
- **Taxation:** Taxation affects so many of the decisions that have lead to our historical underperformance. Canada has the sixth highest effective tax rate among thirty-six competitor countries in 2006. Of particular importance, US tax policy is more supportive of investment spending by companies than Canadian tax policy. Canada's rate, 36.6 percent, is the eighth highest in the world and is more than six percentage points higher than size-weighted average effective tax rate on capital across all eighty-one countries. Within Canada, BC had the fourth highest rate among the provinces in 2006 with a rate 8.3 percentage points above Alberta, but 4.9 percentage points below Ontario.

British Columbia has a mediocre R&D track record. A recent provincial R&D report notes that Manitoba (14.1%), Alberta (12.1%) and BC (11.9%) had major increases in 2004 that were driven by growth in business R&D. National growth in R&D expenditure was 6.8 percent in 2004 and was around 4.5 percent in 2005 and 2006. Further, BC's R&D spending as a percent of GDP has increased from 1.07 in 1999 to 1.45 in 2004 and the relative gap between R&D spending in BC and the Canadian average has decreased from 40.4 percent in 1995 to 28.0 percent in 2004.

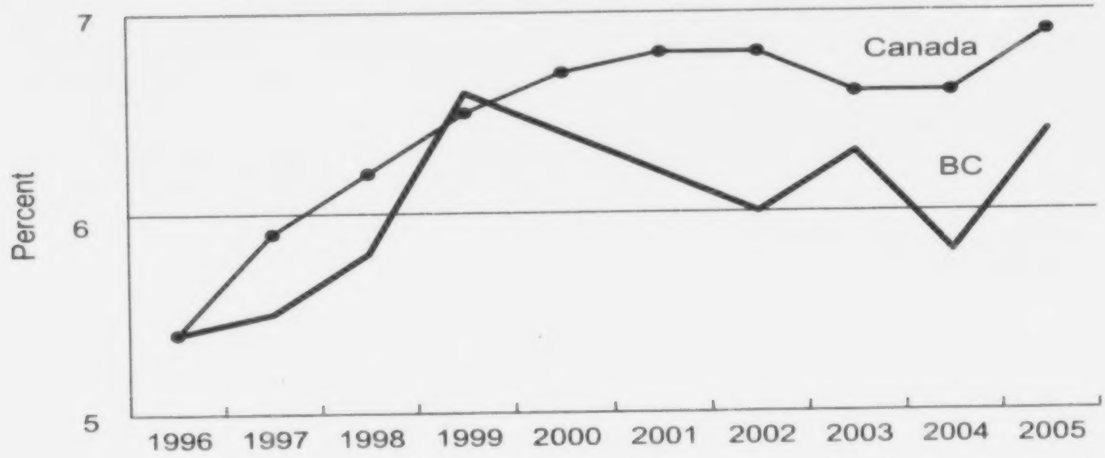
BC has the necessary supports for an R&D cluster within the GVRD. Continued growth in R&D spending (see page 79) and capital expenditure (see page 72) would help to improve the R&D picture in BC.

Sources: Jaumotte and Pain (2005), Innovation in the Business Sector, OECD Economics Department Working Paper No. 459; TD Economics (2006) British Columbia's Golden Decade, Can this Period of Prosperity Take on a Longer Life?; BC Progress Board (2006) Boosting Incomes, Confronting Demographic Change: BC's "Productivity Imperative"; Harris, Richard (2005), Canada's R&D Deficit – And How To Fix it, Removing the Roadblocks, CD Howe Institute.; Statistics Canada (2006), Total spending on Research and Development in Canada, 1990 to 2006, and Provinces, 1990 to 2004, cat. #88-001, Vol. 30, no. 7; Ference Weicker & Company (2003), Western Economic Diversification Canada: A Catalyst for Innovation in Western Canada; Thomson MacDonald (2005), Canada's Venture Capital Industry in Q4 2005; Wolfgang Keller (2001) The Geography and Channels of Diffusion at the World's Technology Frontier, NBER Working Paper No. 8150; Robson and Goldfarb, (2006) Canadian Workers Need Better Tools: Rting Canada's Performance in the Global Investment Race, CD Howe Institute; Mintz (2006) The 2006 Tax Competitiveness Report: Proposals for Pro-Growth Tax Reform, CD Howe Institute.

Performance Indicator 13 Natural and Applied Science and Related Occupations

Economy, Innovation and Education

Employment in Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations as a Percent of Total Employment, BC and Canada

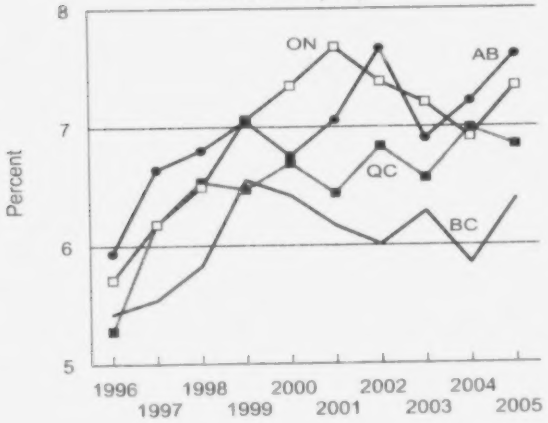


Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator shows the proportion of a jurisdiction's employment which is comprised of persons working in natural and applied sciences and related occupations. Included in this category are occupations in the physical sciences, engineers, architects, mathematicians, systems analysts, and programmers and associated technical occupations.

Provinces - Natural and Applied Science Employment



Why it's Important

The number of scientists and engineers relative to total employment is one indication of a jurisdiction's success in attracting people who possess knowledge and skills essential to the process of innovation and wealth creation.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 5th	2003 4th	2004 5th	2005 **4th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 6th	2002-2003 1st	2003-2004 9th	2004-2005 **3rd**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 6th	1994-2003 4th	1995-2004 10th	1996-2005 **7th**

How Does BC Compare?

There were steady increases in the proportion of scientists and engineers to total employment in Canada between 1996 and 2001. After declines in 2003 and 2004 the proportion has rebounded and was 27.2% higher in 2005 than in 1996. British Columbia's proportion grew in six of the ten years between 1996 and 2005. The proportion of BC's total employment consisting of scientists and engineers was 6.4% in 2005, up from 5.4% in 1996. This marked the third smallest increase in Canada over this period.

III. Environment, Health and Society

Goal
Make BC a leader in Canada on environmental quality, health outcomes and social condition by 2010.

Targets	
4.	**Environmental Quality:** Target 1st in Canada for environmental quality by 2010.
5.	**Health Outcomes:** Target 1st in Canada for Health Outcomes by 2010.
6.	**Social Condition:** Target 1st or 2nd in Canada for Social Condition by 2010.

Performance Indicators	
14.	Air Quality
15.	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
16.	Protected Areas
17.	Life Expectancy at Birth
18.	Cancer Mortality
19.	Cardiovascular Disease Mortality
20.	Infant Mortality
21.	Potential Years of Life Lost
22.	Low Income Cut-Offs
23.	Low Birth Weight Rate
24.	Personal and Property Crime
25.	Income Assistance
26.	Long-Term Unemployment

Where BC Ranks: Most Recent

Environment, Health and Society

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	4. Environmental Quality	2004	1 (1)	6	8	2	4	3	9	6	10	4
◎	5. Health Outcomes	2003	1 (1)	5	6	8	3	2	4	7	9	9
◎	6. Social Condition	2004	9 (8)	3	3	5	6	10	2	7	1	8
✓	14. Air Quality	2004	5 (3)	6	3	1	7	n/a	3	n/a	n/a	1
✓	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2004	2 (2)	10	9	5	3	1	8	7	4	6
✓	16. Protected Areas	2003	1 (1)	2	7	4	3	7	9	5	10	6
✓	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	2004/05	1 (1)	4	6	8	3	2	5	7	9	10
✓	18. Cancer Mortality	2003	1 (1)	2	3	5	4	6	7	9	10	8
✓	19. Cardiovascular Disease Mortality	2003	2 (2)	6	5	4	3	1	8	7	9	10
✓	20. Infant Mortality	2003	2 (5)	9	8	10	6	3	1	7	4	5
✓	21. Potential Years of Life Lost	2003	2 (2)	8	9	10	1	3	4	5	7	6
✓	22. Low Income Cut-Offs	2004	10 (10)	5	3	7	4	9	2	5	1	8
✓	23. Low Birth Weight	2003	5 (3)	10	2	3	9	7	4	8	1	6
✓	24. Personal and Property Crime	2005	9 (9)	7	10	8	2	4	3	6	5	1
✓	25. Income Assistance	2004	2 (2)	1	5	4	6	9	8	7	3	10
✓	26. Long-Term Unemployment	2005	9 (8)	2	5	4	7	10	3	6	1	8
	Arithmetic Average		3.9	5.5	5.8	5.6	4.5	5.2	5.0	6.6	5.3	6.5
	Overall Indicitive Rank		1	6	8	7	2	4	3	10	5	9

Note: The Arithmetic Average excludes the three core targets as they are indeces of the performance indicators.

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
✓	14. Air Quality	2004	1 (1)	2	3	n/a	5	4	6
✓	23. Low Birth Weight	2004	1 (1)	6	3	2	5	4	7
✓	24. Personal and Property Crime	2005	7 (7)	4	1	2	6	5	3
	Arithmetic Average		3.0	4.0	2.3	2.0	5.3	4.3	5.3
	Overall Indicitive Rank		3	4	2	1	6	5	6

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
✓	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2003	21 (22)	26	23	n/a	12	25
✓	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	2004	4 (3)	10	20	24	19	23
✓	23. Low Birth Weight	2004	9 (7)	10	6	2	22	25
✓	26. Long-Term Unemployment	2005	6 (3)	5	18	1	11	8
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		10.0	12.8	16.8	9.0	16.0	20.3
	Overall Indicitive Rank		2	3	5	1	4	6

Note on Tables: An arithmetic average and "overall indicative rank" are included for summary comparison purposes only. Each core target and performance indicator should be viewed independently for comparing British Columbia's overall economic, innovation and education performance relative to other jurisdictions.

Where BC Ranks: One Year Progress

Environment, Health and Society

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	4. Environmental Quality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	5. Health Outcomes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	6. Social Condition	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
📈	14. Air Quality	2002 - 2003	2 (7)	7	4	1	n/a	6	3	n/a	n/a	5
📈	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2003 - 2004	8 (5)	5	9	7	2	3	10	6	4	1
📈	16. Protected Areas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
📈	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	2003/04 - 2004/05	2 (2)	3	4	5	6	1	7	9	10	8
📈	18. Cancer Mortality	2002 - 2003	4 (6)	8	3	5	6	2	9	7	10	1
📈	19. Cardiovascular Disease Mortality	2002 - 2003	8 (7)	3	7	2	6	4	9	10	1	5
📈	20. Infant Mortality	2002 - 2003	2 (9)	1	6	8	4	3	5	9	10	7
📈	21. Potential Years of Life Lost	2002 - 2003	1 (10)	8	10	5	9	2	4	6	3	7
📈	22. Low Income Cut-Offs	2003 - 2004	5 (1)	4	10	7	9	3	2	8	1	6
📈	23. Low Birth Weight	2003 - 2004	8 (5)	3	2	4	1	5	9	7	10	6
📈	24. Personal and Property Crime	2004 - 2005	6 (4)	8	3	2	7	10	1	5	9	4
📈	25. Income Assistance	2003 - 2004	1 (1)	10	6	9	8	5	3	4	2	7
📈	26. Long-Term Unemployment	2004 - 2005	10 (1)	7	3	4	5	6	2	1	8	9
	Arithmetic Average		5.2	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.6	4.0	5.5	6.5	6.2	5.6
	Overall Indicitive Rank		3	4	5	2	7	1	6	10	9	7

Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
📈	14. Air Quality	2003 - 2004	3 (4)	1	2	n/a	5	6	4
📈	23. Low Birth Weight	2003 - 2004	7 (2)	4	1	6	5	2	3
📈	24. Personal and Property Crime	2004 - 2005	1 (2)	3	2	4	7	5	6
	Arithmetic Average		3.7	2.7	1.7	5.0	5.7	4.3	4.3
	Overall Indicitive Rank		3	2	1	6	7	4	4

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
📈	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2002 - 2003	20 (6)	23	2	n/a	12	5
📈	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	2003 - 2004	20 (18)	25	2	4	26	21
📈	23. Low Birth Weight	2003 - 2004	2 (15)	15	12	10	16	9
📈	26. Long-Term Unemployment	2004 - 2005	28 (1)	13	11	1	20	6
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		17.5	19.0	6.8	5.0	18.5	10.3
	Overall Indicitive Rank		4	6	2	1	5	3

Where BC Ranks: Period Progress

Environment, Health and Society

Where BC Ranks, by Province (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
◎	4. Environmental Quality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	5. Health Outcomes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
◎	6. Social Condition	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
📈	14. Air Quality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
📈	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	1995 - 2004	1 (1)	2	8	3	4	5	9	7	6	10
📈	16. Protected Areas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
📈	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	1995/96 - 2004/05	2 (1)	6	10	8	3	1	4	5	9	7
📈	18. Cancer Mortality	1994 - 2003	2 (6)	6	9	4	3	1	7	5	10	8
📈	19. Cardiovascular Disease Mortality	1994 - 2003	4 (4)	9	8	2	3	1	5	6	10	7
📈	20. Infant Mortality	1994 - 2003	3 (3)	8	5	9	6	4	1	7	10	2
📈	21. Potential Years of Life Lost	1994 - 2003	1 (1)	8	10	9	4	3	2	6	7	5
📈	22. Low Income Cut-Offs	1995 - 2004	8 (9)	4	6	3	9	1	2	5	10	7
📈	23. Low Birth Weight	1995 - 2004	9 (7)	10	6	5	2	3	4	7	8	1
📈	24. Personal and Property Crime	1996 - 2005	2 (3)	7	10	5	1	3	4	6	9	8
📈	25. Income Assistance	1995 - 2004	1 (3)	4	8	9	2	7	6	5	3	10
📈	26. Long-Term Unemployment	1996 - 2005	10 (9)	7	8	4	2	3	6	5	9	1
	Arithmetic Average		3.9	6.5	8.0	5.5	3.5	2.9	4.5	5.8	8.3	6.0
	Overall Indicitive Rank		3	8	9	5	2	1	4	6	10	7

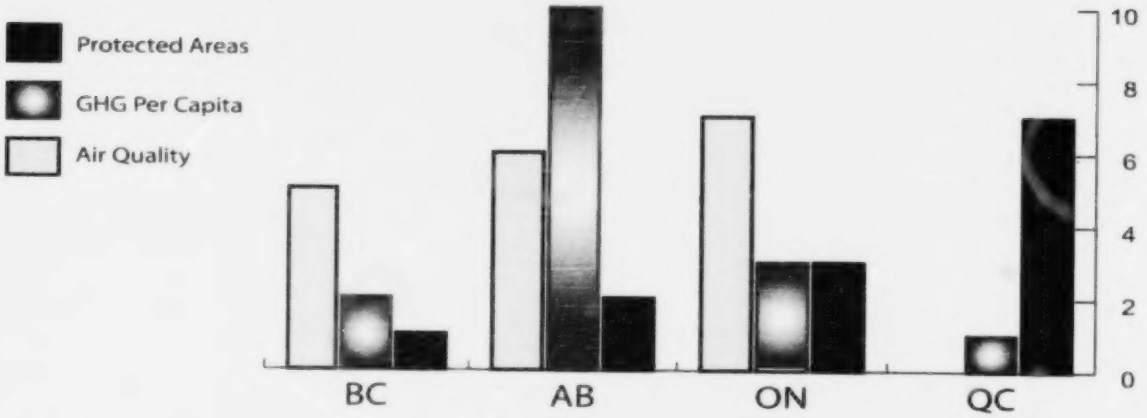
Where BC Ranks, by Province and State (BC's prior rank is shown in brackets)

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Period	BC	AB	ON	QC	WA	OR	CA
📈	14. Air Quality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
📈	23. Low Birth Weight	1995 - 2004	4 (3)	6	1	2	7	5	3
📈	24. Personal and Property Crime	1996 - 2005	4 (5)	7	1	3	6	5	2
	Arithmetic Average		4.0	6.5	1.0	2.5	6.5	5.0	2.5
	Overall Indicitive Rank		4	6	1	2	6	5	2

Where BC Ranks Internationally

	Core Target or Performance Indicator	Year	BC	Canada	Ireland	Korea	UK	US
📈	15. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	1994 - 2003	6 (16)	12	19	n/a	13	4
📈	17. Life Expectancy at Birth	1995 - 2004	14 (14)	24	4	1	26	29
📈	23. Low Birth Weight	1995 - 2004	13 (17)	23	18	1	14	16
📈	26. Long-Term Unemployment	1996 - 2005	20 (18)	6	14	22	2	25
	Arithmetic Average (Weighted)		13.3	16.3	13.8	8.0	13.8	18.5
	Overall Indicitive Rank		2	5	3	1	3	6

Environmental Quality, British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec



Sources: BC Progress Board; see individual indicators for component data sources.

Description

This core target provides a summary snapshot of BC's overall environmental quality. It is derived from three environmental performance indicators that follow in this report: air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and protected areas. Environmental Quality rankings are the simple average of each province's rank on the three indicators.

Environmental Quality, Rank by Province

	Air Quality	GHG Per Capita	Protected Areas	Environmental Quality
	2004	2004	2003	2004
BC	5	2	1	1
AB	6	10	2	6
SK	3	9	7	8
MB	1	5	4	2
ON	7	3	3	4
QC	n/a	1	7	3
NB	3	8	9	9
NS	n/a	7	5	6
PE	n/a	4	10	10
NF	1	6	6	4

Why it's Important

Environmental quality has both direct and indirect consequences for human health and quality of life.

Where BC Ranks

	2001	2002	2003	2004
By Province	1st	1st	1st	**1st**

How Does BC Compare?

Overall, BC ranked first in Canada on environmental quality, with a fifth place rank on air quality, a second place rank on greenhouse gas emissions and a first place rank on protected areas.

Manitoba ranked second for environmental quality, followed by Quebec (3rd), Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador (tied for 4th and 5th). Alberta and Nova Scotia tied for the sixth and seventh place ranks. The bottom three provinces were: Saskatchewan (8th), New Brunswick (9th) and Prince Edward Island (10th). Alberta's overall rank is strongly affected by its high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. Saskatchewan and New Brunswick tied for the third and fourth place rank on air quality which provided their best individual ranks. Prince Edward Island's best rank was fourth on greenhouse gas emissions per capita.

Notes: The Environmental Quality core target was developed because the Progress Board was unable to identify a single measure that adequately encapsulates overall environmental quality. Should a more scientifically robust indicator for overall environmental quality become available, the Board will revise this target measure. The Environmental Quality ranks for Nova Scotia and PEI are the arithmetic average of ranks for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Protected Areas only.

Additional Environmental Measures

The 'environment' is not easily summarized - especially in cross-jurisdictional comparisons - in any single indicator. For this reason, the Progress Board uses an index to measure environmental quality in its core measurement framework based on indicators available across provincial boundaries. To supplement our core environmental quality index and the three indicators that underpin it (urban air quality, greenhouse gas emissions per capita and protected areas) a number of additional measures less commonly used and frequently without comparison in other jurisdictions may enhance our understanding of BC's overall environmental performance.

Air Quality Measures – One of the most commonly used environmental indicators is air quality, as measurement and analysis is both simple and cost effective relative to most other environmental indicators. Air quality is generally measured in terms of the size and amount of particulate matter in the air. This matter is produced by the burning of fossil fuels and combustion engines and most commonly seen in the environment in the form of smoke or smog, can pose a significant health risk to humans when breathed in large quantities.

Particulate matter based air quality measures provide an excellent method of benchmarking pollution levels, both between jurisdictions and across time. Such measures have begun to illustrate that air quality in many regions in North America is in fact improving. However, while traditional air quality measures may be improving, questions frequently arise regarding their reliability. Air quality measurements are extremely vulnerable to measurement bias. For example, a measure taken upwind of an industrial area or in a rural location will appear much more favourable than one taken elsewhere. And as the types of industry – and the pollutants they release – change over time and between jurisdictions, the continued relevance of focusing on particulate matter-based measures is questioned.

While air quality measures continue to be extremely valuable indicators, it is necessary to pay careful attention to where, and how it is being measured before making firm claims about overall air quality improvements. Using additional measures of air quality to enhance the information provided by traditional particulate matter statistics also provide a more comprehensive view of the current quality of the air we breathe. Measures such as mercury, ground-level ozone, nitrogen oxide, climate change trends and carbon monoxide are all valuable indicators that are gaining acceptance and will help to provide a more comprehensive environmental snapshot. Unfortunately, widespread measurement continues to be restricted both by data collection challenges and costs.

British Columbia recently piloted the World's first Air Quality Health Index for fourteen communities throughout BC in the summer and fall of 2006. The Index provides a number between one and ten indicating the level of risk from a community's air quality. Based on the level of the index, health information is available for the at risk population and the general population. Indicators in the index include: ground-level ozone; particulate matter; nitrogen dioxide; and, sulfur dioxide.

Water Quality Measures – Assessing water quality attempts to provide a comprehensive picture of the overall state of the environment, and especially in determining the effects that industrial pollutants, pesticides, fertilizers, and wastewater are having on our environment and health. Adequate supplies of clean water are a necessity for the health of British Columbians and industries such as tourism, recreation, agriculture, and fisheries. A variety of water quality related measures are available to monitor water sources including, among others: measurements of the amount of wastewater treated in a jurisdiction to reduce environmental stress; number of boiled water advisories issued in response to contamination threats; waterborne human disease outbreaks caused by parasites; changes in groundwater levels; extent and/or alteration of freshwater ecosystems; sea surface temperature; clarity; changing stream flows; and, withdrawals for human use.

Land Quality Measures – Land-based environmental measures are a final important component in ensuring overall environmental quality. Indicators include changes in total areas of cropland, forest, grasslands and wetlands; species at risk; forest age; forest disturbances including

Continued on following page.

Additional Environmental Measures (cont.)

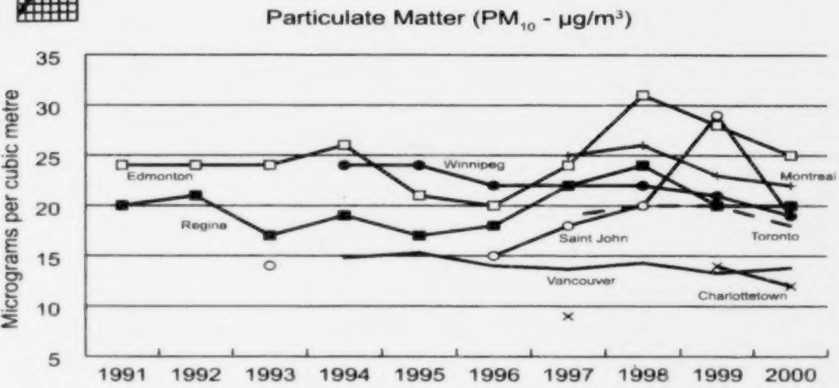
fire frequency, insects, and disease; timber growth and harvest; cattle production; agricultural inputs and outputs including pesticides and fertilizers; industrial toxic waste releases; municipal waste; soil biological condition; and, near surface temperature, an indicator of climate change.

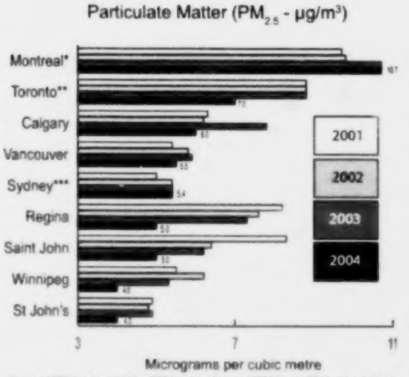
Despite the variety of potential measures available to expand current environmental reporting, the majority continue to face ongoing measurement and collection challenges. To allow comprehensive environmental reporting over time and across jurisdictions, problems of inadequate and incomplete data, specific measurement definitions, and measurement techniques must be effectively addressed. Some detailed information and actual measures – beyond the cross-jurisdictional indicators within our core reporting framework – are included in the table opposite.

Supplemental Environmental Statistics	
Air Quality	
Ground Level Ozone	Formed when nitrogen oxides react with natural factors, ground level ozone can damage lung tissue and mucous membranes as well as reduce crop yields. While Smithers and Hope had the highest levels in the 1998-2000 period, no BC location exceeded the 65 ppb national standard.
Climate Change	Temperature: Data for the past 50 years show a pattern of warming consistent with what has been observed globally. The overnight minimum air temperature has been increasing faster than the daytime maximum creating a climate with a narrower daily temperature range, a longer growing season, and fewer days of frost each year. Precipitation: Annual precipitation has increased in several regions of British Columbia. Annual trends mask a more significant shift in seasonal patterns. Effects of continued warming trends may include warmer coastal waters, less snow pack, disruption in migration and spawning patterns, and species redistribution.
Water Quality	
Water Quality Index	The Water Quality Index ranks bodies of water against a set of objectives set by the province that take into account user needs and demands (human and other organisms). Rankings against these objectives range from Excellent (close to natural) to Poor (most uses threatened, impaired or lost). Of 55 monitored bodies: 20 rated as Excellent; 9 as Good; 8 as Fair; 6 as Marginal (borderline); and, 3 as Poor.
Per Capita Municipal Water Use	British Columbians average water use was 678 litres per person per day in 1999, down 60% from 1983 but slightly above the Canadian average of 638 litres/day and well over Canada's lowest users, the Prairie provinces at 492 litres/day. Approximately 65% of domestic water use occurs in the bathroom. Communities that paid a flat rate used 15% more water than those paying on volume.
Land Quality	
Municipal Solid Waste	In 2002 British Columbians generated 936 kg of non-hazardous solid waste per person, making BC the fourth lowest generator. BC's rate of diversion, the proportion of generated waste which is recycled off-site, was 29% in 2002, second only to Nova Scotia's 30%.
On-site Toxic Substance Releases	The majority of toxic waste releases in BC in 2000 were to land – 82% was injected underground (1% on land), with the remainder released equally to water and air. BC's on-site releases (primarily hydrogen sulphide) are the largest in Canada accounting for 33% of total Canadian releases at 122,078 tonnes.

Sources: British Columbia Ministry Environment, Environmental Trends in British Columbia, 2002; and British Columbia's Coastal Environment: 2006. Statistics Canada, Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors 2002; Canadian Institute for Climate Studies; Environment Canada. **Notes:** Water bodies are generally monitored when there are likely to be quality concerns so these results may appear worse than a random sampling of all BC water bodies. Updates to this table have been included where possible; much of this information will be updated when the Ministry of Environment releases Environmental Trends 2007.

Performance Indicator 14 Air Quality Environment, Health and Society





Notes: *2004 not available, 2003 value shown **2001 and 2002 not available, 2003 value shown ***2003 and 2004 not available, 2002 value shown

Sources: BC Progress Board: BC Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection; Environment Canada.

Description

Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulate matter in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. Many air quality monitors have been measuring fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. There is a national initiative underway to switch to monitoring $PM_{2.5}$. As such, the best available data for 1992 through 2000 is PM_{10} while the best data for 2001 and subsequent years is $PM_{2.5}$.

Factories, cars, power plants, construction activity, and numerous other man-made sources emit fine particulates. The indicator is measured by individual cities, rather than by province.

Why it's Important

Air quality has direct effects on human health. Fine particulates may affect breathing, aggravate respiratory and cardiovascular disease, alter the body's defense systems and damage lung tissue. Both premature mortality and emergency hospital visits may increase during times of high concentrations of fine particulates.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 3rd	2002 3rd	2003 5th*	**2004 5th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 n/a**	2001-2002 6th* (of 8)	2002-2003 4th* (of 7)	2003-2004 **4th (of 7)**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 n/a	1993-2002 n/a	1994-2003 n/a	1995-2004 **n/a**

How Does BC Compare?

In general, Vancouver and most other BC cities have significantly better air quality than many cities across Canada. Vancouver ranked fifth in 2004 and third on the 2001-2004 average behind St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador and Winnipeg, Manitoba using the concentration of $PM_{2.5}$ particulates in the air.

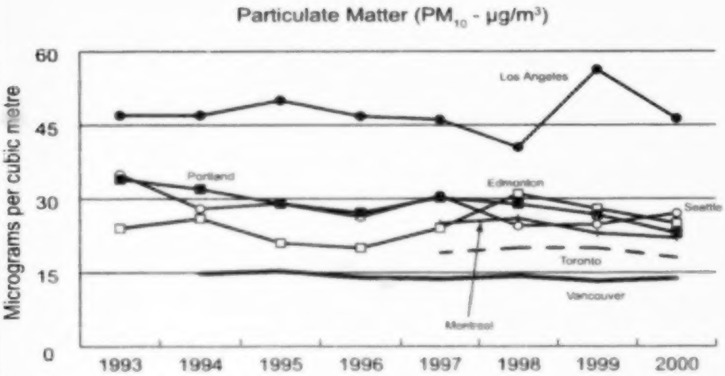
Although Vancouver ranked second behind Charlottetown in 2000 it consistently ranked first among the eight Canadian cities that have PM_{10} data for 1997 through 2000.

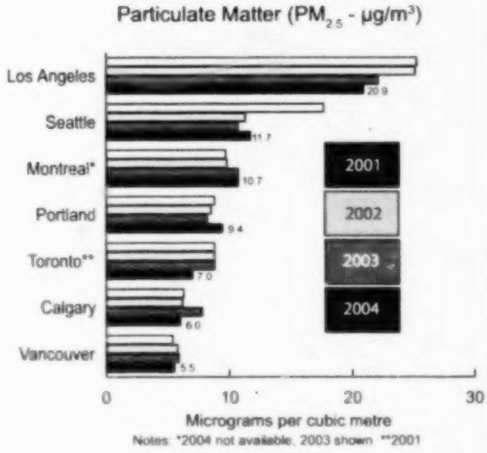
All seven cities reviewed had lower $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations in 2004 than in 2003 with percent drops ranging from 6.8% in Vancouver to 31.8% in Regina.

Notes: Nationwide air quality data are available for many communities, not just major metropolitan areas. To keep comparisons manageable, the Progress Board has included a major metropolitan area from each province for which data are available. The BC Progress Board switched to reporting on the $PM_{2.5}$ standard from the PM_{10} standard with the release of 2001 data. *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions. **The 2000 rank is based on PM_{10} data.

Performance Indicator 14 Supplemental Information: US Comparison

Air Quality


Particulate Matter (PM_{10} - µg/m³)


Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$ - µg/m³)

Notes: *2004 not available, 2003 shown **2001

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Environment Canada; US Environmental Protection Agency

Description

Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulate matter in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. These particles can settle in the lungs and make breathing difficult for individuals of all ages, but especially the elderly and those with cardiovascular problems. Many air quality monitors have been measuring fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. Both Canada and the US have only recently begun to monitor $PM_{2.5}$. As such, the best available data for 1993 through 2000 is PM_{10} while the best data for 2001 and subsequent years is $PM_{2.5}$.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2001 1st	2002 1st	2003 1st	2004 **1st**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 n/a**	2001-2002 6th	2002-2003 4th*	2003-2004 **3rd**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 n/a	1993-2002 n/a	1994-2003 n/a	1995-2004 n/a

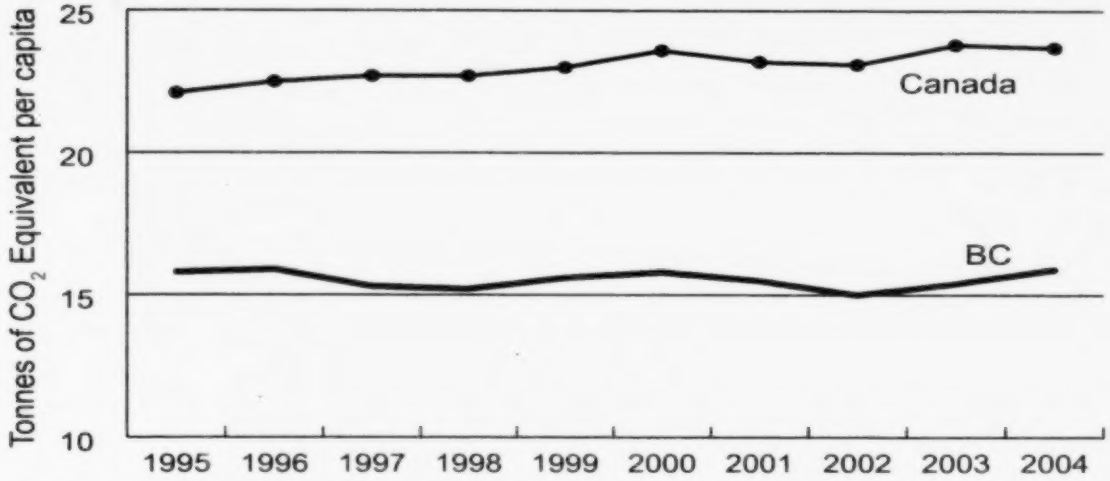
How does BC Compare?

Vancouver had the lowest annual mean concentration of fine particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) in its air in 2004; Los Angeles had the highest. Using the $PM_{2.5}$ standard, Vancouver's air quality improved between 2003 and 2004. Air quality also improved in Calgary, Toronto and Los Angeles but deteriorated in Portland and Seattle.

Notes: Nationwide air quality data are available for many communities, not just major metropolitan areas. To keep comparisons manageable, the Progress Board has included a major metropolitan area from each of the provinces and states included within our supplemental US comparisons. The BC Progress Board switched to reporting on the $PM_{2.5}$ standard from the PM_{10} standard with the release of 2001 data. *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions. **The 2000 rank was based on PM_{10} data.

Performance Indicator 15 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Environment, Health and Society

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Per Capita, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; Environment Canada.

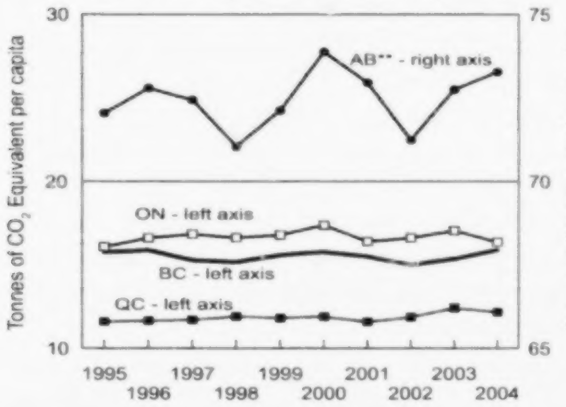
Description

Energy prices, industrial structure, consumption patterns and weather are major influences on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This indicator measures how many tonnes of greenhouse gases are emitted on a per person basis per year. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, ozone, methane and nitrous oxide.

Why it's Important

Human activities are increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere.

Provinces - Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 2nd*	2002 2nd*	2003 2nd*	2004 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 6th*	2001-2002 2nd*	2002-2003 5th*	2003-2004 **6th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 4th*	1993-2002 5th*	1994-2003 1st*	1995-2004 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2004, BC's per capita GHG emission levels were second lowest in Canada at 15.9 tonnes, a 0.9% increase from 1995, when emissions were 15.8 tonnes per capita. In 2004, Quebec had the lowest per capita GHG emissions at 12.2 tonnes, while Alberta had the highest at 73.3 tonnes. The Canadian average in 2004 was 23.7 tonnes per capita.

Three provinces had declines in their per capita greenhouse gas emissions between 2003 and 2004. The largest decline (6.9%) was in Newfoundland and Labrador; BC's increased by 3.5% to rank fourth. Nova Scotia (12.0%) and Saskatchewan (3.9%) had the largest increases.

BC's significant reliance on "clean" hydroelectric power generation contributes to its favourable ranking relative to most other provinces.

Notes: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions. **Alberta's per capita GHG emissions are the highest in the country. Therefore Alberta's emissions are tracked on the right axis in the above figure.

Climate Change

Long-term trends from 1950 to 2000 show increasing temperatures throughout the province, with average minimum daily temperatures increasing at a faster rate than maximums, and winter and spring temperatures rising faster than those in the summer. Temperature increases have been more pronounced in the interior than in the coastal areas. Throughout the province, this has created milder year round weather, with fewer days of frost and longer growing seasons. Research also shows that patterns of rainfall are changing across the province, with the Okanagan and North Coast having increasingly wetter springs but the South Coast's precipitation patterns remaining relatively constant over the past 50 years.

The economic costs of mitigating human-induced climate change are high and concentrated in the short term, while possible benefits occur in the long-run and are diffused over both time and physical area. One 2001 report estimated the cost of achieving the Kyoto target in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would be $120 per tonne CO2 equivalent emission and would necessitate a 10 to 100 percent increase in electricity prices, 60 percent increase in natural gas prices and 50 percent increase for gasoline. Canada's emphasis on voluntary initiatives to reduce emissions in the past has been evaluated as both environmentally ineffective and economically inefficient. A 2004 study suggested that the government pursue sector-specific, market-driven regulations such as requiring a minimum market share for low-emission technologies and energy forms, or setting maximum emissions for major industries, implemented with flexibility over time.

Adaptation, in the context of climate change, refers to activities that minimize the negative impacts of climate change or encourage the development of new opportunities that may arise in the changed environment. While mitigation strategies are necessarily global in scale, adaptation can and should be managed at the local level, as different strategies will be most effective in different affected locales. A recent report suggests that Canada as a whole faces significant adaptation costs related to adapting infrastructure – roads, bridges and water-related, due to the impacts of rising sea levels. However, planning for and adapting to predicted climate changes can have a substantial economic benefit. For example, one study predicts that if adaptation measures are implemented correctly in agriculture in Canada, they have the potential to turn a projected loss of $2.5 billion into a gain of $10 billion.

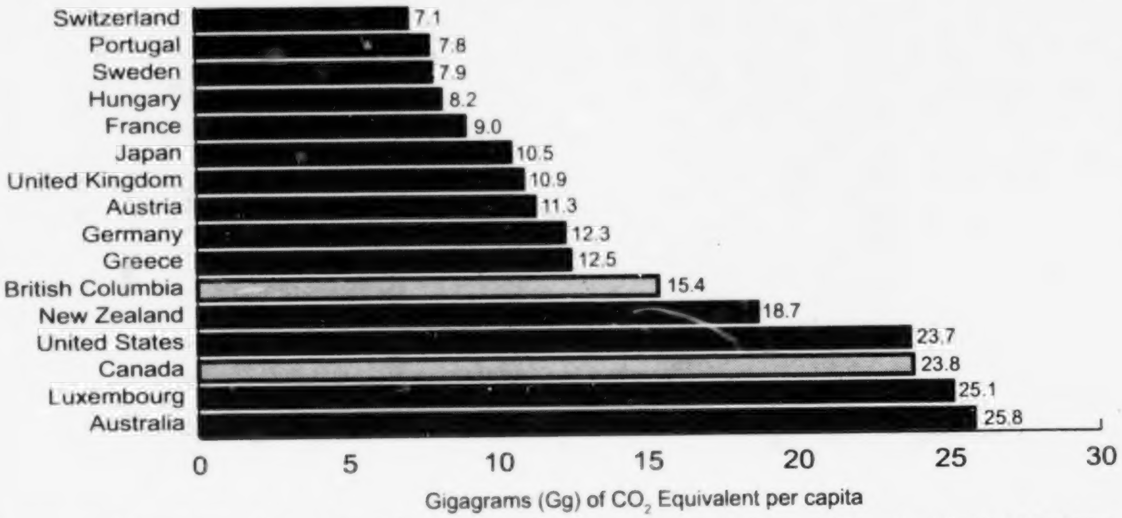
Managing the economic impacts of climate change will be a long run, international exercise. A recent UK review predicts the costs of inaction on climate change to be the equivalent of at least 5% of global GDP per year by 2050, while the costs of stabilizing emissions at a rate that is feasible and which would limit adaptation and social costs and economic growth effects is equivalent to 1% of world GDP per year. Capping emissions at the 500-550 ppm CO2e level recommended, though immediate action, will limit the rise in average temperatures to 2 to 3°C. Policy suggestions to curtail emissions to meet this target include: establishment and implementation of carbon pricing and trading; support of R&D for low-carbon, efficient technologies; public information and minimum standards for energy products; and, adaptation based on high quality, forward looking climate information.

Sources: BC Ministry of Environment (2006) BC Coast and Marine Environment Project, Climate Change section, pages 11&13; Mark Jaccard (2001) Costing Greenhouse Gas Abatement – Canada's Technological and Behavioural Potential, Isuma, Vol. 2, No. 4., Winter; Mark Jacard, Nic Rivers and Matt Horne (2004), The Morning After – Optimal Greenhouse Gas Policies for Canada's Kyoto Obligations and Beyond, CD Howe Institute Commentary No. 197, March. Nicholas Stern (2006) Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, The HM Treasury, Government of the United Kingdom.

Performance Indicator **15** Supplemental Information: International Comparison

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 2003, Gigagrams (Gg) of CO_2 Equivalent Per Capita



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; Environment Canada; United Nations.

Description:

This indicator measures how many tonnes of greenhouse gases are emitted on a per person basis per year. The "six main gases" are included: Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Methane (CH_4), Nitrous Oxide (N_2O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF_6).

How Does BC Compare?

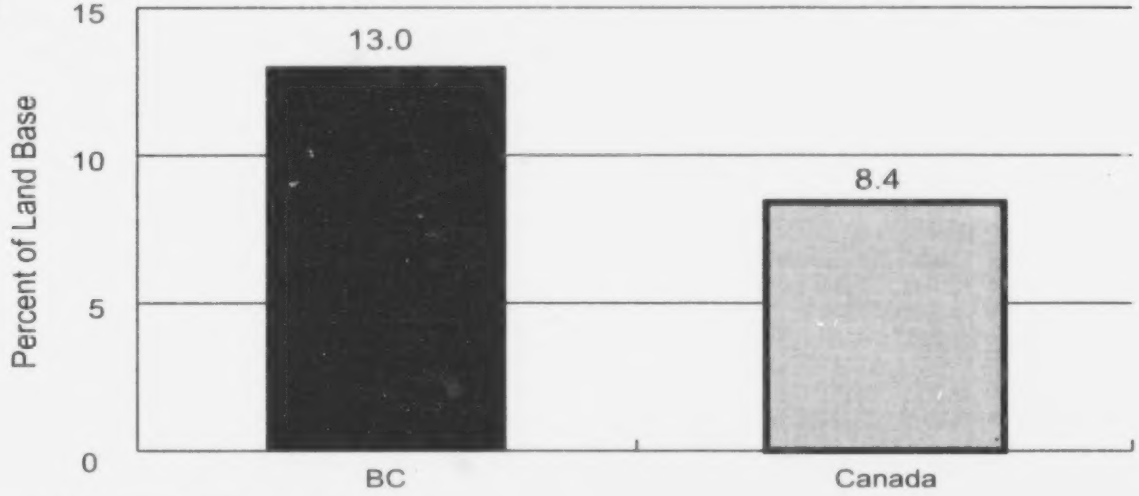
British Columbia underperforms on greenhouse gas emissions per capita relative to Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. According to 2003 data, BC ranked 21st of 28 jurisdictions with per capita emissions of 15.4 tonnes. The three countries with the lowest per capita emissions were: Switzerland (7.1 tonnes), Portugal (7.8 tonnes) and Sweden (7.9 tonnes).

Canada ranked 26th among OECD countries with per capita emissions of 23.8 tonnes. The only OECD countries that ranked behind Canada were Luxembourg (25.1 tonnes per capita) and Australia (25.8 tonnes per capita). In 2003, Canada was responsible for 5.2% of the greenhouse gases emitted by the OECD countries that report the necessary data; the United States was responsible for 47.5%.

In 2003, carbon dioxide (CO_2) represented 77.6% of the greenhouse gases tracked by the United Nations (UN). Worldwide data are not available on the six main gases the UN tracks, but they are available for CO_2. In 2001, the ten five emitting countries were responsible for 45% of worldwide reported CO_2 emissions. In terms of CO_2, the top five emitting countries in 2001 were: United States (20.4% of world total), China (11.4%), Russian Federation (5.5%), Japan (4.2%) and India (3.7%). Canada was responsible for 1.8% of worldwide CO_2 emissions in 2001.

Note: The data presented above for Canada do not match the UN data exactly. The difference is small however (0.7%, on average) and is smaller than the average discrepancy between Environment Canada's (EC) "sum of provinces" and "Canada" data. Environment Canada data for Canada and BC are used above.

Performance Indicator 16 Protected Areas Environment, Health and Society

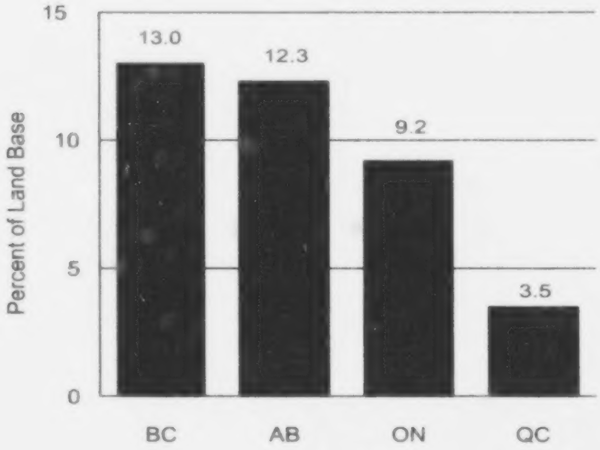


Protected Areas* for BC and Canada, 2003

Sources: BC Progress Board; WWF Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the overall percentage of a jurisdiction's land base that is protected from development. Protected areas are classified according to the IUCN (World Conservation Union) classification system.



Provinces - Protected Areas

Why it's Important

Areas classified as protected are shielded from resource extraction or human activity that results in long term or large-scale impacts on the land's natural character. Such areas are also maintained as a "stock" of the land-base for heritage, aesthetic, biodiversity and other preservation values.

Where BC Ranks**

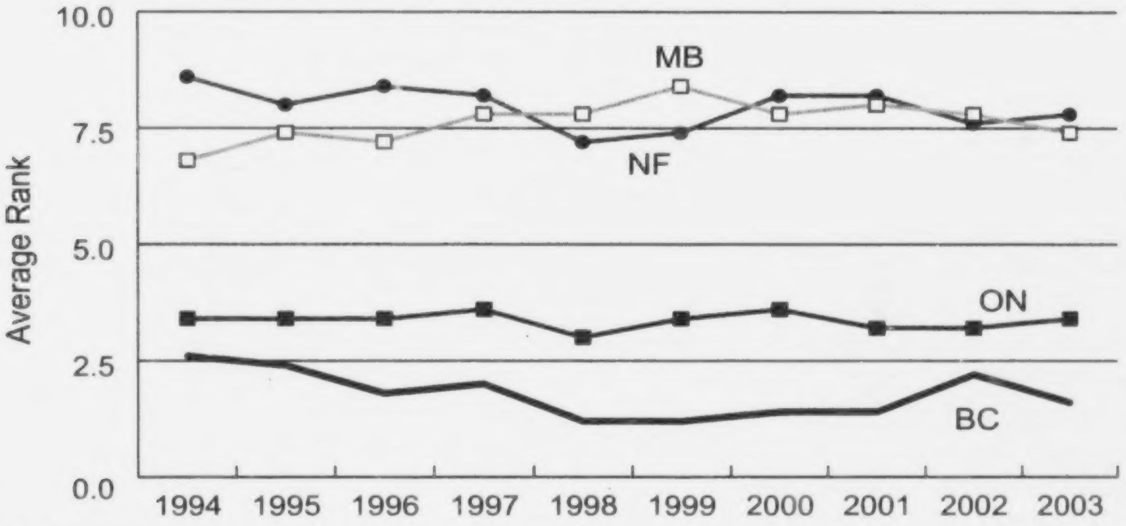
By Province (2003) – 1st (1st)

How Does BC Compare?

In 2003, BC ranked first in Canada for the percentage of the land base protected from industrial activity, at 13.0%. Alberta ranked second with 12.3% of its land base protected, followed by Ontario at 9.2%, Manitoba at 8.5% and Nova Scotia at 8.2%. The sixth place rank went to Newfoundland and Labrador with 4.3% of their land base protected from industrial activity, followed by Quebec and Saskatchewan at 3.5%, New Brunswick at 3.1% and Prince Edward Island at tenth rank among the provinces at 2.6%.

Notes: BC's ratio increased to 13.8% in 2006 with the announcement of land use decisions for the Central Coast and North Coast. *Data from 2003 remains the most current set of data for the provinces. **The 1-Year Progress Check and Period Progress Rank are left out because the data set is not complete enough to allow their inclusion.

Health Outcomes Rank, Top and Bottom Provinces



Source: BC Progress Board

Description

This core target provides a summary of BC's health outcome indicators as tracked by the BC Progress Board. It is derived from five performance indicators that follow in this report: life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, infant mortality and potential years of life lost. Health Outcome rankings are the simple average of each province's rank on the five indicators.

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia had the best health outcome performance among the provinces over the entire 1994 through 2003 period.

The index presented here is slightly different from the one introduced in the 2005 Benchmarking Report. This index uses the most recent year of data for each component.

BC had the top rank for life expectancy at birth (2004/05), cancer mortality (2003) and overall health outcomes (2003). BC had second place ranks for cardiovascular mortality (2003), infant mortality (2003) and potential years of life lost (2003).

Where BC Ranks

	2000	2001	2002	2003
By Province	1st	1st	1st	**1st**

Health Outcomes, Component Ranks by Province

	Life Expectancy	Cancer Mortality	Cardio-vascular Mortality	Infant Mortality	PYLL	Health Outcomes
Year	2004/05	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003
BC	**1**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**1**
AB	4	2	6	9	8	5
SK	6	3	5	8	9	6
MB	8	5	4	10	10	8
ON	3	4	3	6	1	3
QC	2	6	1	3	3	2
NB	5	7	8	1	4	4
NS	7	9	7	7	5	7
PE	9	10	9	4	7	9
NF	10	8	10	5	6	9

Source: BC Progress Board

Health Insurance Coverage by Country

In 2003, the public share of total health spending in Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries ranged from a low of 44 percent in the US to a high of 90 percent in the Czech Republic. Canada, at 70 percent, came in just below the OECD average of 72 percent. The private insurance share ranged from none in Norway, Iceland and the Slovak Republic to a high of 37 percent in the US. Canada and France tied for third and fourth highest private insurance spending at 13 percent. An additional 15 percent of health spending in Canada came from out-of-pocket payments, which ranged from a low of 7 percent in Luxembourg to a high of 51 percent in Mexico.

The utilization of private health insurance varies greatly among the countries in the OECD. Five countries (Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States) have *Primary* private health insurance that represents the only available access to basic health coverage because there is no public coverage or individuals are not eligible for coverage (principal) or individuals have chosen to opt out of public coverage (substitute).

Seventeen OECD countries have private coverage that duplicates, complements or supplements the public system. The remaining twelve have negligible private health insurance or, in the case of South Korea, do not have data available.

Canada and Switzerland are the only countries where private coverage is restricted to services not covered by the public system. Five other countries have similar restrictions but also have negligible (i.e., less than 1 percent) private coverage.

Duplicate: private health insurance that offers coverage for health services already included under public health insurance, while also offering access to different providers or levels of service. It does not exempt individuals from contributing to public health coverage programs.

Complement: private health insurance that complements coverage of publicly insured services by covering all or part of the residual costs not otherwise reimbursed (e.g., co-payments)

Supplement: private health insurance that provides coverage for additional health services not covered by the public system.

Population Covered by Private Health Insurance, 2000

	Coverage (%)	Duplicate	Complement	Supplement	Primary
Australia	44.9	X	X		
	40.3			X	
Austria	31.8		X	X	
Belgium	57.5		X	X	X (principal)
Canada	65.0[e]			X	
Denmark	28.0		X	X	
Finland	10.0	X	X	X	
France	92.0		X	X	
Germany	9.1				X (substitute)
	9.1		X	X	
Greece	10.0	X		X	
Ireland	43.8	X	X	X	
Italy	15.6	X	X	X	
Netherlands	28.0				X (principal)
	64.0[e]			X	
New Zealand	35.0	X	X	X	
Portugal	14.8	X	X	X	
Spain	2.7				X (substitute, principal)
	10.3	X		X	
Switzerland	80.0			X	
United Kingdom	10.0	X		X	
United States	71.9		X	X	X (principal)

Source: OECD (2004) **Notes:** e=estimate; information is also available for: Czech Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, Sweden and Turkey but the proportion of their populations covered by private health insurance was either negligible or below 2.8 percent; Austria reports Primary (substitute) coverage for 0.1 percent of its population.

Sources: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2004), Private Health Insurance in OECD Countries; (2005) Health at a Glance, OECD Indicators.

Comparative Wait Times

"Wait Times" have become a focal point in the ongoing debate over the relative success of our health care systems in meeting and treating the health needs of Canadians. Statistics Canada surveys indicate that roughly 20 percent of patients waiting for care reported that they were adversely affected by the wait, indicating factors such as pain, anxiety, deterioration in their health, impairment in daily activities, and family stress.

There are challenges in the use of this measure for interprovincial comparisons. Wait times can be – and are regularly both within BC and across Canada – defined in different terms. Typically they are defined as the length of time between any two points in the continuum of care, but there is little agreement or continuity beyond this about when the waiting time for care begins and when it ends. Within a patient's care progression there are three distinct waiting periods that have all received some degree of attention: wait time to see a specialist, wait time to receive surgery or other hospital based care, and total wait time from first visit to a primary care provider until required treatment is finally provided. Even within these three broad definitions, variations between jurisdictions and over time exist, making meaningful comparison of wait times difficult. The table below provides an overview of what Statistics Canada (SC) and the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) have been able to assemble to date.

Median Wait Times (weeks), 2005

	Canada	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NF
Non-emergency surgeries[1] (SC)	4.3	5.0	4.3*	F	6.0*	4.3	4.3*	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3*
Specialist visits[2] (SC)	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	6.0*	4.3	3.0	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.3
Cardiac Surgery (CIHI)	n/a	9.6	3.4	n/a	3.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hip Replacement (CIHI)	n/a	18.9	18.0	n/a	19.0	14.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.9	n/a
Knee Replacement (CIHI)	n/a	25.0	23.9	n/a	22.0	20.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.0	n/a

Notes: SC=Statistics Canada; CIHI=Canadian Institute for Health Information *Data should be interpreted with caution due to high variability of samples. [1]Time between decision to go ahead with the surgery and the day of surgery. [2]Time between decision to see specialist and when they actually visited the specialist. SC data are based on self-reported wait times and have been age-standardized to enhance comparability. See original CIHI document for extensive notes about the data.

The federal and provincial governments continue to work on quantifying wait lists. On December 12th, 2005, Health Ministers announced benchmarks for five types of non-emergency surgery, radiation therapy and cancer screening. All provinces have web sites that list wait times in at least one of the five priority areas (cancer, heart, diagnostic imaging, joint replacement and sight restoration). British Columbia's site includes data for ninety-five percent of all scheduled surgery in BC grouped into nineteen categories.

As BC's population has aged in recent decades, many surgeries have also become less traumatic and more accessible, meaning that the number of surgeries done in BC has increased at a rate far faster than population growth, putting pressure on the health care system and on wait times. Reducing wait times in such an environment, with health care costs already escalating, will not be simple. A recent OECD study across member states on reducing wait times for elective surgeries found that *low availability of acute care beds* and *salaried remuneration of specialists* were associated with higher wait times, while *fee-for-service systems* and *increased health care spending* were systematically associated with lower wait times, other things being equal. Among the countries studied, the *availability of doctors* was found to have the highest negative correlation with wait times.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Access to Health Care Services in Canada, cat. #82-575; British Columbia Medical Association (2003), Patient Care Guarantees: A Discussion Paper by BC's Physicians; Claudia A. Sanmartin and the Steering Committee of the Western Canada Waiting List Project (2003), Toward Standard Definitions For Waiting Times, Healthcare Management Forum, Canadian College of Health Service Executives; BC Ministry of Health, Pressures on the System, www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/cpa/mediasite/pressures.html; Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2003), Explaining Waiting Times Variations for Elective Surgery across OECD Countries, OECD Health Working Papers 7; Canadian Institute for Health Information, Waiting for Health Care in Canada: What We Know and What We Don't Know.

Health Care Spending and Health Outcomes

Government spending on health care has been growing in real terms for decades and it is likely to continue to grow as Canada's population ages. In 1976, BC spent $3.5 billion on health care (all figures in 1997 dollars). By 1986, BC's expenditure had reached $5.1 billion and by 2005 it had reached $9.8 billion. As a percent of GDP, BC's health expenditure has gone from 5.5% in 1982 to 7.2% in 2005. As a percent of provincial government program spending, BC's health care spending went from 26.6% in 1976 to 40.9% in 2005.

Provincial Health Spending

	British Columbia				*Canadian Average*			
	Per Capita, dollars	Percent of GDP	Percent of Provincial Program Spending	In Constant Dollars ($1997 billions)	Per Capita, dollars	Percent of GDP	Percent of Provincial Program Spending	In Constant Dollars ($1997 billions)
1975/76	394	n/a	26.6	3.5	393	5.1	28.4	29.2
1980/81	738	5.5*	30.8	4.5	665	5.0	28.7	32.9
1985/86	1,083	6.0	31.0	5.1	1,108	5.8	30.2	40.4
1990/91	1,565	6.5	34.6	6.5	1,154	6.3	32.8	49.0
1995/96	1,858	6.6	33.4	7.3	1,664	6.0	32.3	49.8
2000/01	2,312	7.1	37.6	8.8	2,107	6.0	36.1	60.6
1975/76-2000/01 Growth (%)	487	29	41	154	436	13	27	107
2001/02	2,535	7.7	39.2	9.5	2,234	6.2	36.9	63.8
2002/03	2,640	7.8	41.9	9.7	2,366	6.4	37.9	66.2
2003/04	2,706	7.6	43.0	9.8	2,529	6.5	38.8	69.5
2004/05	2,724	7.2	40.9	9.8	2,661	6.5	38.7	72.3
2005/06f	2,855	7.2	40.2	10.1	2,806	6.6	38.6	75.1
2006/07f	2,941	7.1	n/a	10.3	2,931	6.6	n/a	77.6
2000/01-2006/07f Growth (%)	27	0	n/a	17	39	10	n/a	28

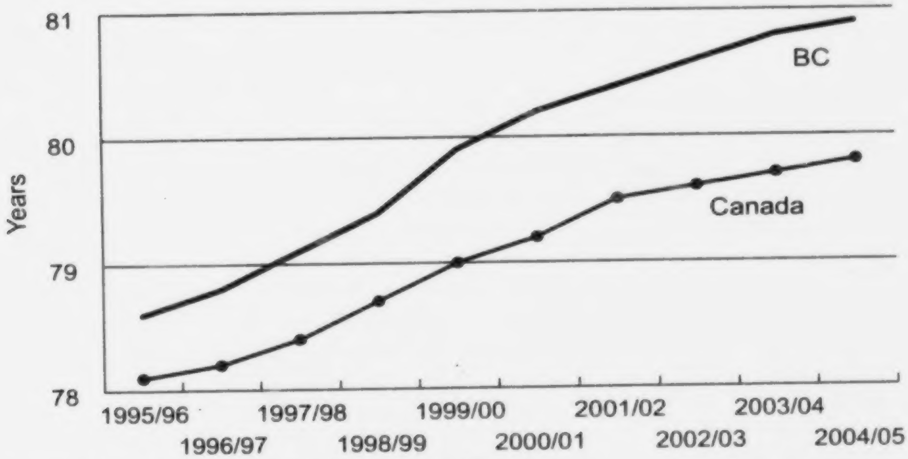
Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information. Notes: *1981/82; f=forecast

In 2005/06 preliminary provincial rankings, BC ends up fifth in overall provincial government health care spending per capita at $2,855, behind Alberta at $3,183, Manitoba ($3,152), Newfoundland and Labrador ($3,098) and Saskatchewan ($2,997). As noted elsewhere in this report, BC does very well on health outcome indicators relative to other provinces (i.e., life expectancy, potential years of life lost, and mortality from cancer and cardiovascular disease). However, drawing a causal connection between high provincial government health care spending and health outcomes in BC (and other jurisdictions) should be done with considerable caution. For example, a review of health outcomes in Newfoundland and Labrador – the province with the third highest per capita provincial government health spending – shows that a correlation between high relative spending and good health outcomes does not necessarily follow. Using the most recent data, Newfoundland and Labrador ranked 10th for life expectancy and the percentage of obese people, 9th for cardiovascular disease and cancer mortality, and 7th on potential years of life lost.

Many factors affect health care spending and act as drivers for future cost pressures. One of these drivers is population ageing because a disproportionate amount of lifetime health care costs occur late in life. Of added concern for BC is that the Canada Health Transfer allocation formula does not differentiate between relatively young and ageing populations, meaning that BC could be disproportionately affected in the future, due to our relatively older population.

Performance Indicator 17 **Life Expectancy** **Environment, Health and Society**

Life Expectancy at Birth, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC St[illegible]; Statistics Canada.

Description
Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years that a child is expected to live in its lifetime, based on current mortality rates.

Why it's Important
This is a key indicator of the overall health of citizens in a jurisdiction.

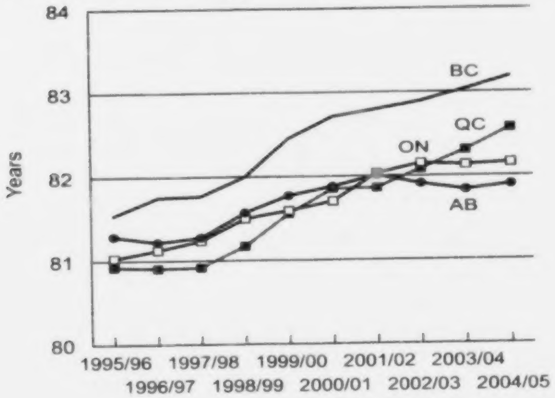
How Does BC Compare?
In 2004/05, British Columbia ranked first in Canada for life expectancy at birth for both males and females. Life expectancy at birth for both sexes reached 80.9 years in 2004/05, up from 78.6 years in 1995/96, the second largest increase in Canada. In 2004/05, the life expectancy of a male born in BC was 78.5 years, while life expectancy for a BC female was 83.2 years.

The gap between male and female life expectancy in Canada narrowed by 16.9% between 1995/96 and 2004/05.

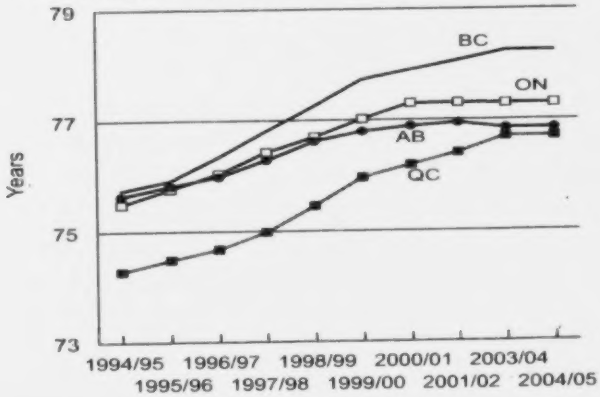
Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001/02 1st	2002/03 1st	2003/04 1st	2004/05 **1st**
1-Year Progress Check	2000/01 - 2001/02 9th	2001/02 - 2002/03 4th*	2002/03 - 2003/04 2nd*	2003/04 - 2004/05 **2nd**
Period Progress Rank	1992/93 - 2001/02 1st	1993/94 - 2002/03 1st	1994/95 - 2003/04 1st	1995/96 - 2004/05 **2nd**

Provinces - Life Expectancy at Birth, Females

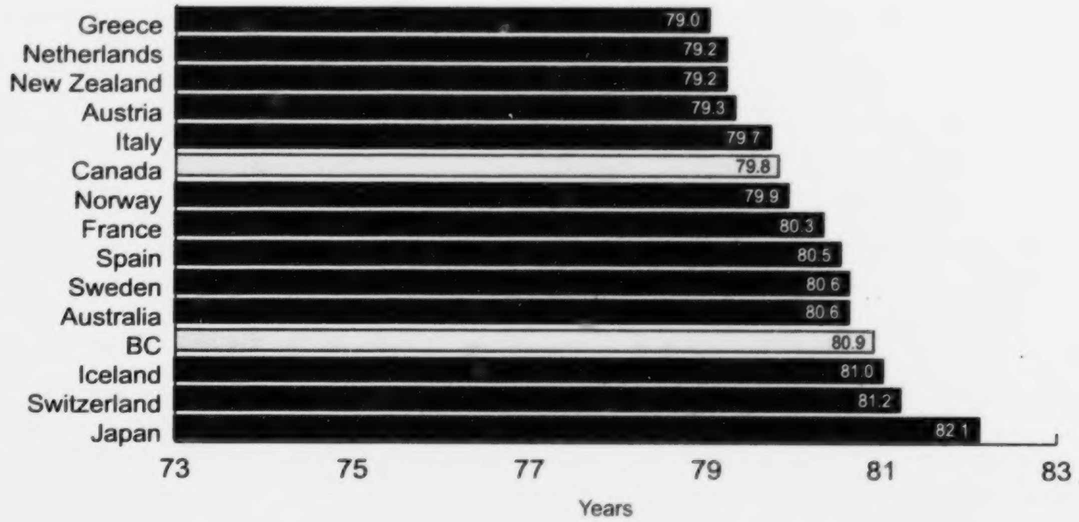


Provinces - Life Expectancy at Birth, Males



Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Life Expectancy at Birth



Life Expectancy at Birth, 2004, Years

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD.

Description:

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years a newborn infant can expect to live under current mortality levels.

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia performs very well on life expectancy at birth relative to OECD countries. British Columbia ranked 4th out of 31 jurisdictions with a 2004 life expectancy at birth of 80.9 years, behind only Japan, Switzerland and Iceland. Canada ranked 10th in the OECD with average life expectancy at birth of 79.8 years. Turkey ranked last among OECD countries with a life expectancy at birth of 71.2 years. Hungary ranked 30th with a life expectancy of 72.8 years, preceded by the Slovak Republic at 74.1, Poland at 75.0 and Mexico at 75.2 years.

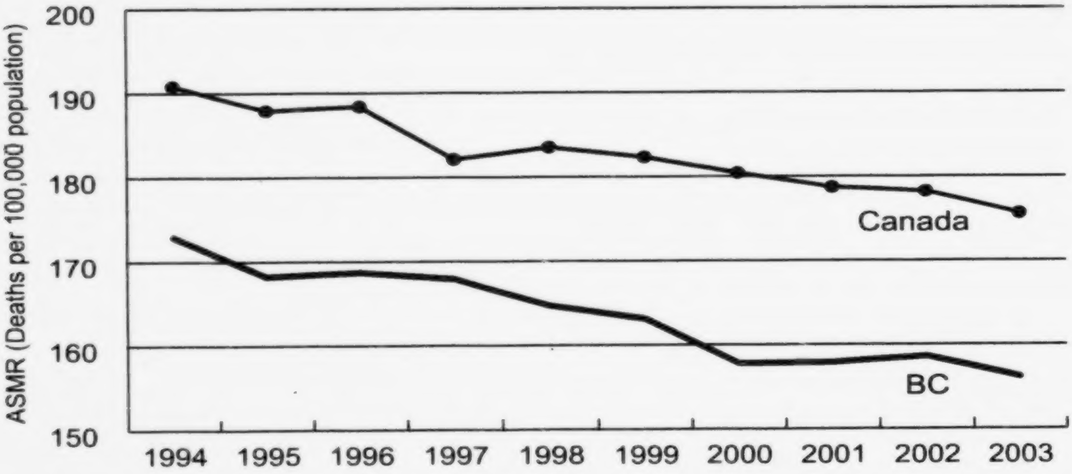
British Columbia ranked 18th for improvement in life expectancy between 1995 and 2004 with a 2.8% (2.2 year) increase. Not surprisingly, the largest improvements and the highest ranks were seen in countries that have relatively low life expectancies. Korea ranked 1st with a 5.3% improvement, followed by Turkey (4.9%) and Poland at 4.2%.

Worldwide life expectancy at birth is 64.8 years, ranging from 32.6 in Swaziland to 83.5 in Andorra. Of 226 countries, life expectancy is: above 80 in thirteen; between 70 and 80 in 122; between 60 and 70 in forty-three; between 50 and 60 in nineteen; between 40 and 50 in twenty-two; and, between 30 and 40 in seven. All but five of the forty-two countries with a life expectancy below sixty years are in Africa.*

Notes: The following countries do not have data for 2004: Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. Values from 2003 are used for these countries. Canada's rate as reported by Statistics Canada (and used elsewhere in this report) differs slightly from those reported by the OECD for this indicator; the difference averages 0.19% for the 1995 through 2004 period. Statistics Canada's values are used in the above analysis. *The CIA World Factbook as of July 11, 2006.

Performance Indicator 18 Cancer Mortality Environment, Health and Society

Cancer Mortality* Rate per 100,000 Population, BC and the Canadian Average



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

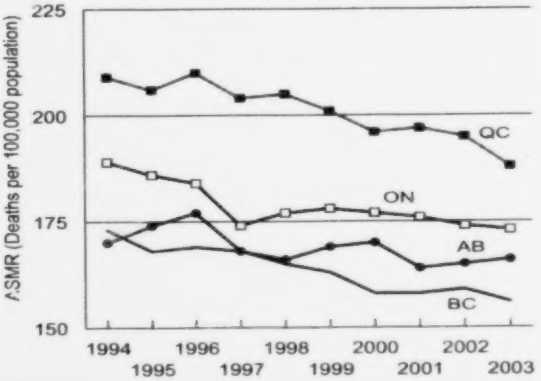
Cancer is a disease in which abnormal cells form in human organs or tissue and grow to form a tumor. Two-thirds of all cancers are caused by a person's lifestyle, such as diet, physical activity, drinking and smoking habits. This indicator provides insight about the health related lifestyle choices made by people within a jurisdiction.

Why it's Important

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Canada. The National Cancer Institute of Canada estimates that there will be as many as 145,500 new cases of cancer and 68,300 cancer deaths in 2004.

Approximately 43% of men and 38% of women will develop cancer. Fully 28% of men and 23% of women will die of cancer. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women; colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer. Smoking is responsible for about one-third of potential years of life lost due to cancer and this proportion is increasing.**

Provinces - Cancer Mortality*



Where BC Ranks

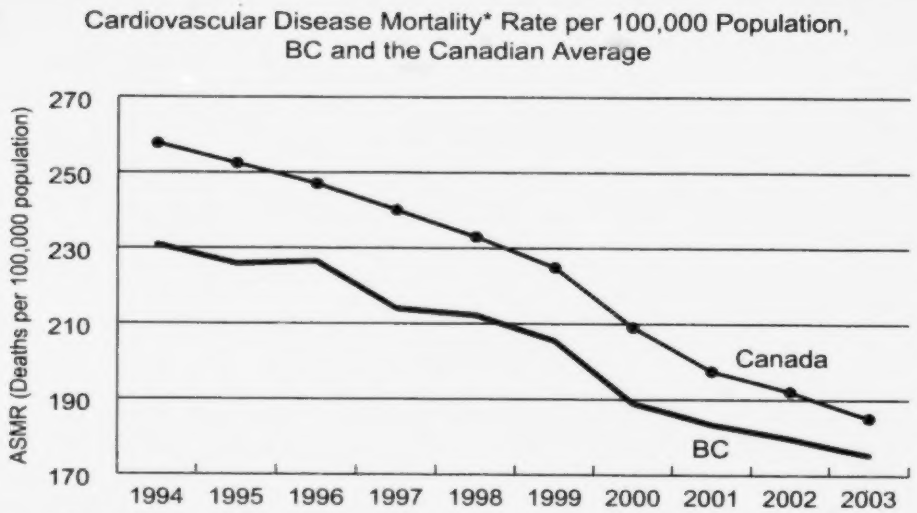
By Province	2000 1st	2001 1st	2002 1st	2003 **1st**
1-Year Progress Check	1999 - 2000 1st	2000 - 2001 8th	2001 - 2002 6th	2002 - 2003 **4th**
Period Progress Rank	1991 - 2000 1st	1992 - 2001 2nd	1993 - 2002 6th	1994 - 2003 **2nd**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2003, approximately 156 people per 100,000 died from cancer in BC. This was the lowest rate in Canada, and 12.4% below the Canadian average of 176 people per 100,000. BC saw a 9.7% drop from its 1994 mortality rate of 173; the Canadian average was a decline of 8.0%.

Note: *There is a break in the data due to Statistics Canada's adoption of the ICD-10 in 2000 - the 10th edition of International Classification of Diseases. The impact of the implementation of ICD-10 on deaths due to malignant neoplasms is estimated to be a 1.24% increase in the number of such deaths. No historical revision is planned. **National Cancer Institute of Canada, Canadian Cancer Statistics 2004.

Performance Indicator 19 Cardiovascular Disease Mortality Environment, Health and Society



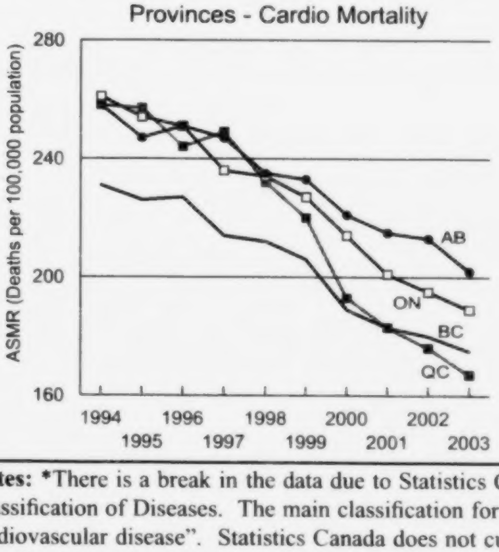
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Cardiovascular disease refers to a number of diseases of the circulatory system such as heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and arrhythmias among others.

Why it's Important

It is the leading cause of hospitalization (except childbirth) among Canadians, and is the cause of death of almost 40% of the population despite falling mortality rates from cardiovascular disease. With health professionals increasingly building public awareness on growing obesity rates in Canada, especially among children and youth, heart disease is again taking centre stage. While cardiovascular disease continues to affect the elderly, it is currently the third leading cause of death among the under 75 population and also affects quality of life, activity levels, and employability of numerous younger Canadians.



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2000 1st	2001 2nd**	2002 2nd	**2003** **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	1999 - 2000 3rd	2000 - 2001 10th	2001 - 2002 7th**	**2002 - 2003** **8th**
Period Progress Rank	1991 - 2000 2nd**	1992 - 2001 2nd	1993 - 2002 4th	**1994 - 2003** **4th**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2003, approximately 175 people per 100,000 died from major cardiovascular disease in BC. This was the second-lowest rate in Canada, and 5.6% below the Canadian average of 185 people per 100,000. Quebec had the lowest rate in 2003 at 167 per 100,000 population. BC saw a 24.1% drop in this mortality rate between 1994 and 2003.

Notes: *There is a break in the data due to Statistics Canada's adoption of the ICD-10 in 2000 - the 10th edition of International Classification of Diseases. The main classification for heart disease changed from "diseases of the circulatory system" to "major cardiovascular disease". Statistics Canada does not currently have plans to revise the historical data. The data presented above therefore have a break between the 1990-1999 and 2000-2003 data points. **Does not match the rank in the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Health Risk Factors

Cancer and heart disease remain the biggest killers in Canada overall and in British Columbia. In 2004, cancer was responsible for 28.3 percent and heart disease 22.6 percent of all deaths in BC; together they account for the majority of deaths in BC. Both share common risk factors – obesity, inactivity, poor eating habits, and tobacco use. These health risk factors are common, but are controllable through changes in habits and lifestyle.

Obesity, Poor Eating Habits and Inactivity

Cancers related to poor diet include bladder, lung, oral cavity, pancreas, prostate and stomach. The International Agency for Research on Cancer attributes one-quarter to one-third of all breast, colon, esophagus, kidney and uterus cancers to excess body weight and inactivity. As well, those who are overweight are at higher risk of high blood pressure, high blood lipids and diabetes, putting them at a higher risk of heart disease and stroke.

In 2005, 53 percent of Canadians 12 or older still did not get their recommended intake of fruit and vegetables, 47 percent were physically inactive and 29 percent of youths and 59 percent of adults were either overweight or obese. In addition to the measured body mass index (BMI) data reported above, Statistics Canada reports self-reported BMIs. Comparing the measured and reported BMI data reveals that youths tend to overestimate height and underestimate weight and that among adults, women tend to underestimate weight and men tend to overstimate height. Moreover, underreporting of weight increases with higher measured BMIs. For example, 33.4 percent of adults self-reported being overweight while measurements show the rate is a slightly higher 34.9 percent. However, only 15.5 percent of adults self-reported as obese, while measurement shows that fully 24.3 percent of the adult population is actually obese.

Smoking, Tobacco use and Exposure to Tobacco

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, exposure to tobacco increases the risks not only of lung cancer (the top cause of all cancer deaths) but also of bladder, cervix, colorectal, esophagus, kidney, larynx, oral and pancreatic cancer. According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, heart disease rates are 70 percent higher for smokers than non-smokers. Smoking is still the leading cause of preventable illness in Canada, accounting for 30 percent of cancer deaths, even though the percentage of smokers in Canada has been on the decline since 1965. However, 22 percent of Canadians aged 12 or more were smokers in 2005, 24 percent of men and 20 percent of women.

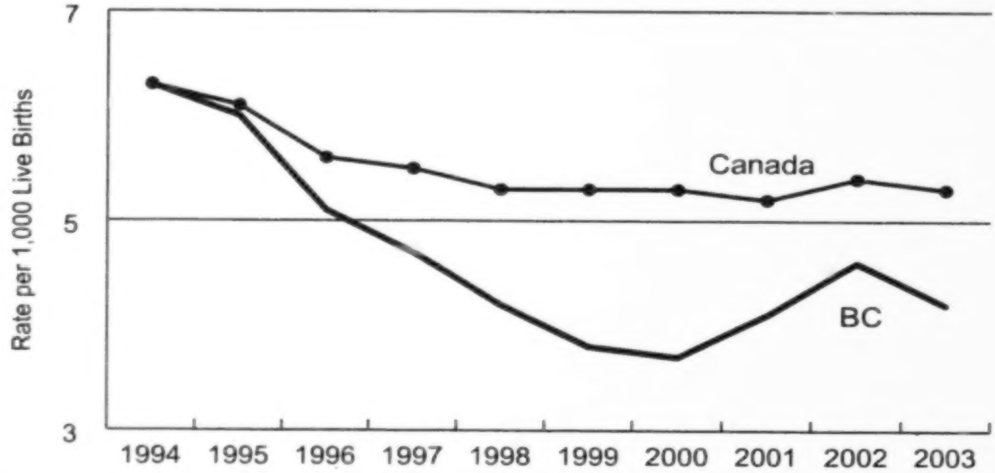
BC and the Health Risk Factors

British Columbia currently ranks low among all the provinces in occurrence and prevalence of health risks. British Columbia had the lowest overweight proportion of adults in Canada with 54.0 percent of men and 36.4 percent of women self-reporting as overweight or obese in 2005. The Canadian average was 57.7 percent for men and 40.3 percent for women. BC also had the lowest rate for those 12 and over who were physically inactive in 2005 at 40.1 percent vs. the Canadian average of 46.7 percent. For smoking and exposure to tobacco, British Columbia had the lowest proportion of those 12 and over that were current smokers of all Canadian provinces in 2005, at 17.8 percent. Manitoba had the second lowest rate (20.4%), while Quebec had the highest (24.4%). British Columbia also had the lowest proportion of those aged 12 and older exposed to second-hand smoke at home, at 4.8 percent, while the Canadian average was 8.7 percent and Prince Edward Island was the highest, at 13.6 percent.

British Columbia may rank low relative to other provinces, but these risks still affect health in BC. The percentage of obese and/or overweight individuals, both in Canada overall and in BC, is on the rise. And while BC has the lowest percentage of current smokers, there are 639,351 British Columbians still smoking. Policies and programs can help inform people and encourage healthy lifestyles recognizing the correlation between smoking, exposure to tobacco, obesity, poor eating habits, and physical inactivity, and cancer and heart disease. However, the onus is on individuals to actually make the changes.

Sources: BC Stats; Canadian Cancer Society / National Cancer Institute of Canada, Canadian Cancer Statistics 2005; Statistics Canada, Health Indicators - June 2006, catalogue no. 82-221-XIE. Heart and Stroke Foundation Heart Disease: Risk Factors, 2005; Health Canada, Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) 2004.

Performance Indicator 20 Infant Mortality Environment, Health and Society



Infant Mortality Rate, BC and the Canadian Average

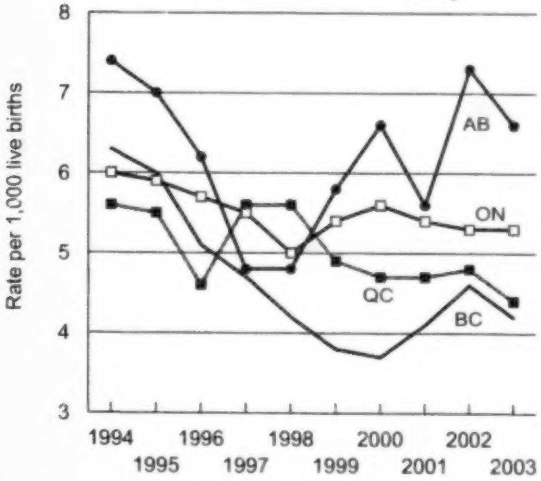
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Infants who die in the first year of life, expressed as a count and a rate per 1,000 live births.

Why it's Important

A long-established measure, not only of child health, but also of the well-being of a society. This indicator reflects the level of mortality, health status, and health care of a population, and the effectiveness of preventive care and the attention paid to maternal and child health.



Provinces - Infant Mortality

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2000 3rd	2001 1st	2002 5th	2003 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	1999 - 2000 5th	2000 - 2001 7th	2001 - 2002 9th	2002 - 2003 **2nd**
Period Progress Rank	1992 - 2000 1st	1992 - 2001 1st	1993 - 2002 3rd	1994 - 2003 **3rd**

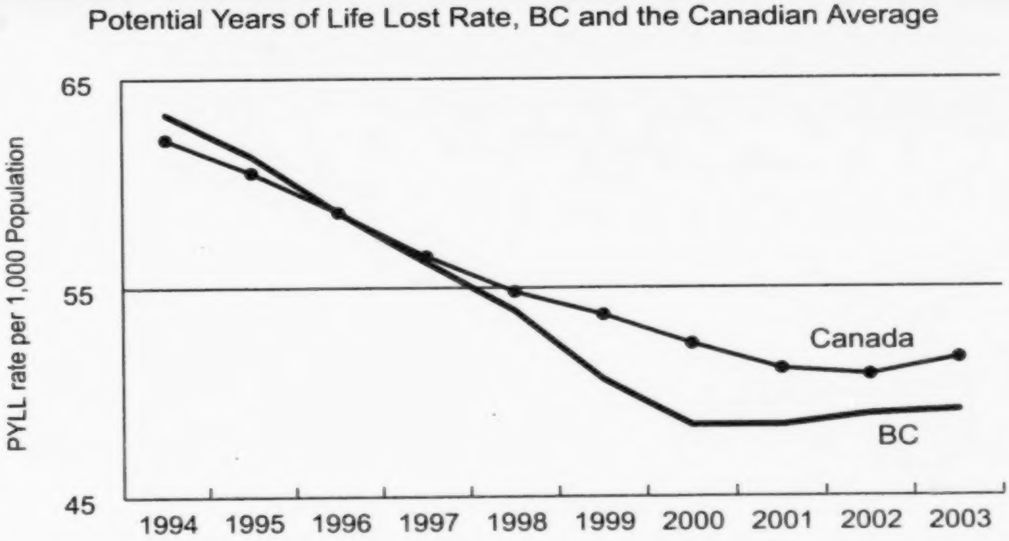
How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia ranked second for the infant mortality rate in 2003 with an indicator value of 4.2 deaths per 1,000 live births, behind New Brunswick at 4.1 and ahead of Quebec at 4.4.

Infant mortality rates are volatile as seen in the provincial comparison figure. Although BC ranked second in 2003 it was fifth in 2002. However, BC has the lowest average infant mortality rate among the provinces for the most recent five and ten year periods. British Columbia's average rate for 1999 through 2003 was 4.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, ahead of second-place New Brunswick and last place Manitoba at 7.4.

The nation as a whole saw a 15.9% decline in infant mortality per 1,000 live births over the 1994 to 2003 period. The 33.3% decline in BC was more than double the national average and second only to Newfoundland and Labrador at 39.0%.

Performance Indicator 21 PYLL Environment, Health and Society

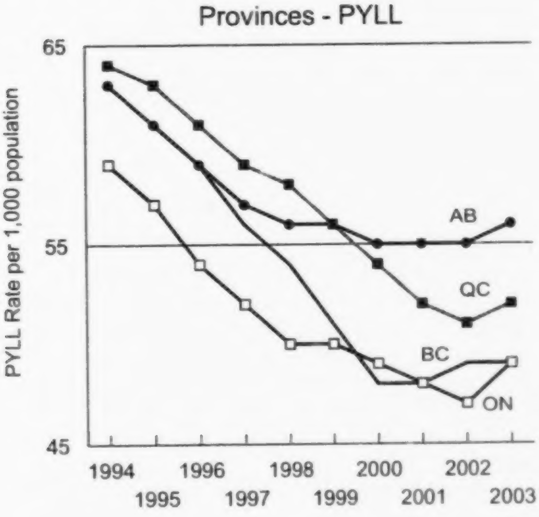


Potential Years of Life Lost Rate, BC and the Canadian Average

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) is an indicator of premature mortality. Potential Years of Life Lost represents the number of years lost when a person dies prematurely. For the purposes of the PYLL calculation, premature death is defined to be any death between the ages of 0 and 74 and is the sum of the differences between the actual age at death and age 75.



Provinces - PYLL

Why it's Important

This indicator gives greater weight to deaths that occur at younger ages than to those at older ages, and can vary according to gender, socio-economic status, and geographic region.

Where BC Ranks

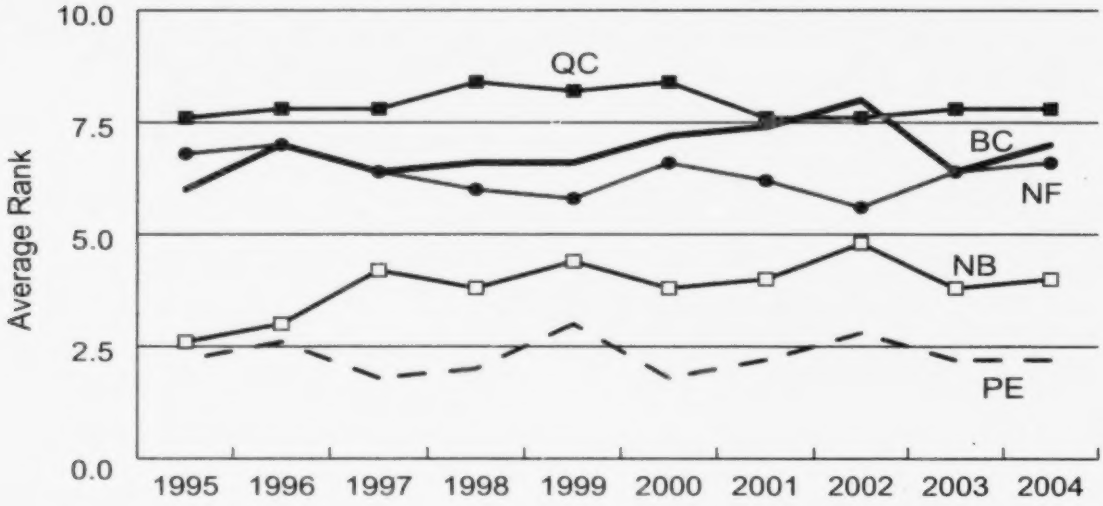
By Province	2000 1st	2001 2nd	2002 2nd*	2003 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	1999 - 2000 3rd	2000 - 2001 9th*	2001 - 2002 10th*	2002 - 2003 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1991 - 2000 1st	1992 - 2001 1st	1993 - 2002 1st	1994 - 2003 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia ranked second in terms of Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) in 2003 with an indicator value of 49.1 years per 1,000 population, behind Ontario at 48.6 and ahead of Quebec at 51.5. Every province noted a decline in their PYLL rate between 1994 and 2003. British Columbia had the largest decrease (22.4%) ahead of Quebec (19.7%) and Ontario (17.0%). The nation as a whole saw a 16.9% decline in potential years of life lost per 1,000 population over the 1994 to 2003 period.

Note: *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

Social Condition Rank, Top and Bottom Provinces



Source: BC Progress Board

Description

This core target provides a summary of BC's social condition indicators as tracked by the BC Progress Board. It is derived from five performance indicators that follow in this report: low income cut-offs (LICOs), low birth weight rate, personal and property crime rate, income assistance, and long-term unemployment. Social Condition rankings are the simple average of each province's rank on the five indicators.

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia earned a ninth place rank for Social Condition in 2003 and 2004. This is a slight improvement for BC which was in last place in 2002.

The index presented here is slightly different from the one introduced in the 2005 Benchmarking Report. This index uses the most recent year of data for each component.

In 2004, BC had the bottom rank for percentage of families and unattached individuals below the after-tax low income cut-off (LICO, 2004) and second to last rank for personal and property crime (2005), long-term unemployment (2005) and overall social condition (2004). BC had middling performance on the low birth weight rate (5th in 2004) and performed relatively well on income assistance (2nd in 2004).

Where BC Ranks

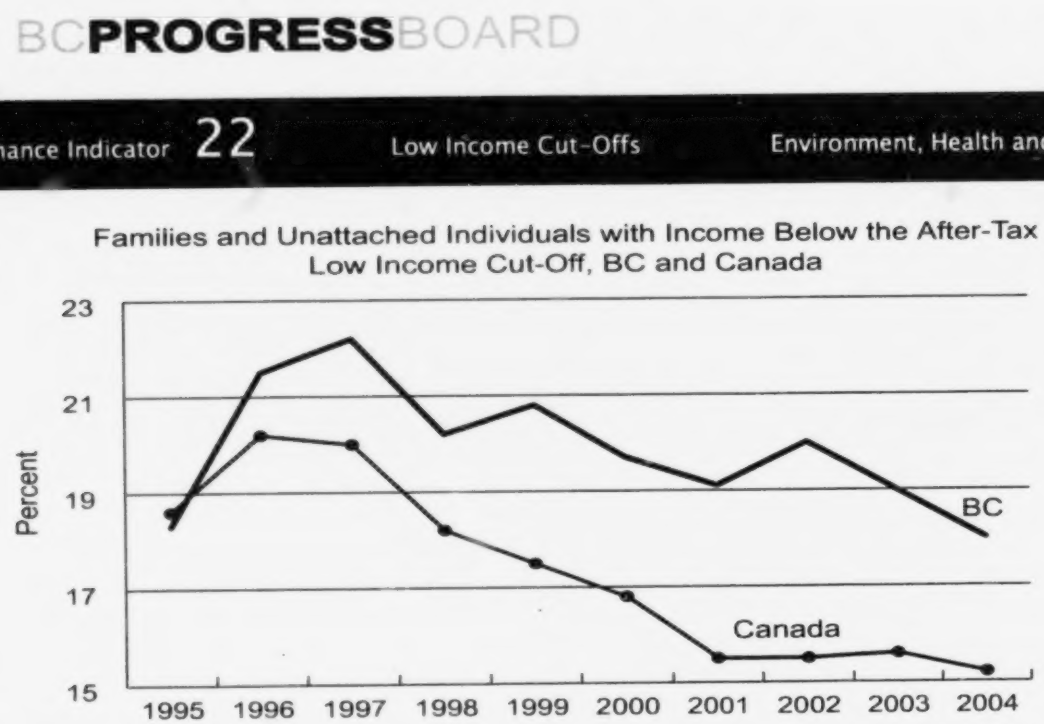
	2001	2002	2003	2004
By Province	9th	10th	9th*	**9th**

Social Condition, Component Ranks by Province, 2004

	LICO	Low Birth Weight Rate	Personal and Property Crime	Income Assistance	Long-Term Unemployment	Average
Year	2004	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
BC	**10**	**5**	**9**	**2**	**9**	**9**
AB	5	10	7	1	2	3
SK	3	2	10	5	5	3
MB	7	3	8	4	4	5
ON	4	9	2	6	7	6
QC	9	7	4	9	10	10
NB	2	4	3	8	3	2
NS	5	8	6	7	6	7
PE	1	1	5	3	1	1
NF	8	6	1	10	8	8

Source: BC Progress Board

Note: *British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador tied for second to last place in 2003.



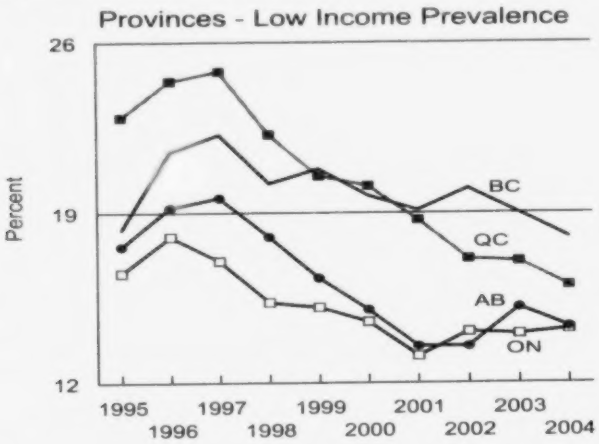
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This measure is the ratio of families and unattached individuals with low incomes (after tax) to the total population of families and unattached individuals.

Why it's Important

There are a number of negative outcomes for families experiencing low incomes. People with low income may experience more physical and mental health problems, rely more on charity, attain lower levels of education, or have higher secondary school drop out rates.



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 10th	2002 10th	2003 10th	**2004** **10th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 9th	2001-2002 8th	2002-2003 1st	2003-2004 **5th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 9th	1993-2002 9th	1994-2003 9th	1995-2004 **8th**

How Does BC Compare?

In 2004, BC ranked last in Canada with 18.0% of families and unattached individuals with incomes below the after-tax low income cut-off level. This was 2.8 percentage points (18.4%) above the Canadian average of 15.2%. Prince Edward Island had the lowest rate at 10.0%, followed by New Brunswick at 11.9%.

All provinces saw decreases in the proportion of people with low income between 1995 and 2004. British Columbia had the smallest decrease at 1.6% and Quebec had the largest decrease at 30.1%. The number of Canadian families and unattached individuals with incomes below the after-tax LICO fell by 18.3% between 1995 and 2004. Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, New Brunswick and Quebec have seen strong decreases in Low Income rates in the last two years while rates in other provinces have been flat or increased.

Low Income Incidence Measures

There are several accepted measures of low income used by Statistics Canada to gauge the proportion of a population in a particular area living below a defined income threshold, and to compare the incidence of low income across demographic groups (e.g. individuals under 18, elderly families and lone-parent families, both male and female-led). The Low Income Cut-Off or LICO is the most established measure, and the Progress Board currently uses it as a component of its Social Condition Index. BC's LICO performance is detailed on the previous page. A new approach, the Market Basket Measure (MBM) was recently developed, though MBM results are available for only the 2000 through 2002 period.

Low Income Cut-Offs (Income After Tax)

The LICO is calculated based on the percentage of after-tax income an average Canadian family spent on food, shelter and clothing in 1992 (44%), plus 20 percentage points (to reach a standard of 64%). To come up with dollar amount cut-off lines, these percentages are applied to incomes and expenditures for 5 different sizes of communities and 7 family types across the country. LICOs are thus relative measures – low income incidence is based on how much income a family or individual spends on food, clothing and shelter relative to what the average family spends.

LICO has been criticized because of this relative nature (it is possible for the incomes of all to improve, but the LICO rate to stay the same) and because it doesn't take into account regional differences in cost of living, as adjustments are made for size only. This means LICO may underestimate low income proportions in areas where food, shelter and clothing costs are higher relative to a similar size city or town elsewhere; for example, costs of living in Vancouver are higher than in many similarly LICO-categorized cities, and therefore someone who lies just above the calculated cut-off may in reality be spending more than 64% of their income on the essentials. The LICOs for BC may then be too low, while those for places like Manitoba may be too high.

Market Basket Measure

In contrast to LICO, the MBM calculates low income as those whose disposable income is insufficient to cover a basic basket of goods and services, priced by community size in each province (e.g. rural Ontario), or by individual urban areas (e.g. the Vancouver CMA). It is thus a regionally specific, absolute measure – if real incomes of all citizens rise at the same rate, the MBM would decrease, as more people would be able to cover the cost of the MBM basket. The disposable income considered for the MBM measure is not just after-tax income (as per the LICO measure) but is calculated by subtracting from family after-tax income payroll deductions such as union dues, pension and health care plans, child care payments and medically-prescribed but unfunded health expenses (e.g. dental and vision care). The MBM basket includes food, shelter, and clothing, as well as transportation, communication, reading, recreation and entertainment goods and services.

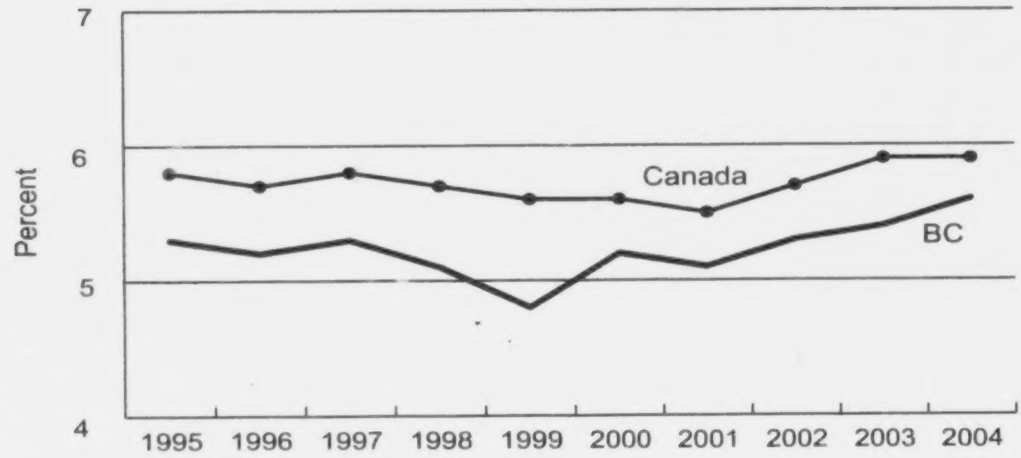
Low Income Incidence in British Columbia, MBM and LICO, percent

	MBM, 2000	MBM, 2001	MBM, 2002	LICO-IAT, 2002
All Persons	23.7	21.1	22.5	16.0
Economic Families 2+	20.5	17.9	19.5	12.5
Two Parent Families with Children	22.2	18.0	19.8	10.1
Female Lone-Parent Families	52.3	55.3	57.9	46.6
Unattached Individuals	37.0	35.8	33.0	32.9

Source: Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Low Income in Canada: 2000-2002 Using the Market Basket Measure, June, 2006.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Low Income Cut-offs for 2005 and Low Income Measures for 2004, Cat. # 75F0002MIE-004, April, 2006; Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Low Income in Canada: 2000-2002 Using the Market Basket Measure, June, 2006.

Performance Indicator 23 Low Birth Weight Environment, Health and Society

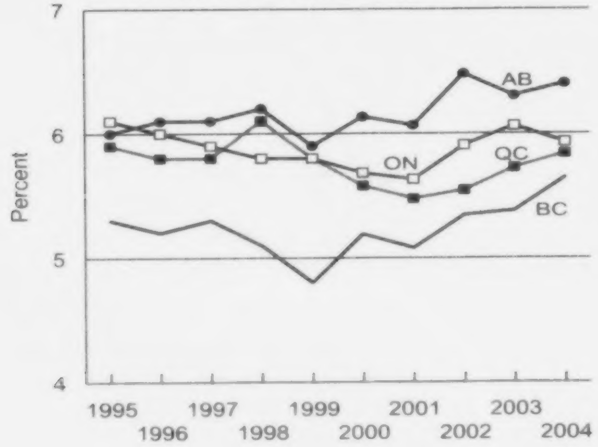


Low Weight Births as a Percent of Total Live Births, BC and Canada

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada.

Description

Newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams are considered to be low birth weight infants. This indicator is the number of live births where birth weight was less than 2,500 grams expressed as a percentage of total live births. The World Health Organization uses the low birth weight rate as an indicator of general social condition in a jurisdiction. This indicator serves as a barometer of overall access to health and education services, and of the level of socio-economic inequality. Factors that contribute to low birth weight are socio-economic status, social support, stress and personal habits.



Provinces - Low Weight Births

Why it's Important

Low birth weight newborns have a substantially higher rate of post birth illness and death. In addition, long-term health problems, lower IQ and academic achievement, increased disabilities and hospitalization rates are associated with low birth weight.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 2nd	2002 5th	2003 3rd	**2004 5th**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 2nd	2001-2002 8th	2002-2003 5th	2003-2004 **8th**
Period Progress Rank	1992-2001 8th	1993-2002 8th	1994-2003 7th	1995-2004 **9th**

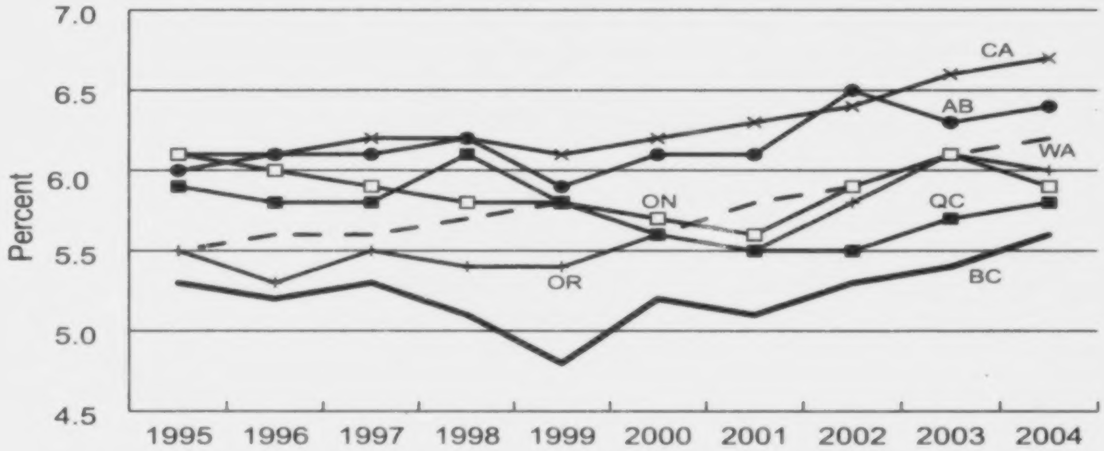
How Does BC Compare?

In 2004, British Columbia ranked second in Canada with 5.6 of all live births weighing less than 2,500 grams. This compares favourably with the Canadian average of 5.9. BC's low weight birth rate was 5.2, on average, between 1995 and 2004, the third lowest average in the country.

Except for fifth place ranks in 2000, 2002 and 2004, British Columbia held either first, second or third place among the provinces over the period 1990 through 2004.

Low Birth Weight

Low Weight Births as a Percent of Live Births



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Department of Health and Human Services.

Description:

Newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) are classified as low birth weight infants. The factors that might contribute to a low birth weight baby include socio-economic status, social support, stress and personal habits. Low birth weight babies are prone to higher rates of illness and have a higher probability of hospitalization, future health problems and disabilities. This indicator is an important harbinger of the overall social condition of a province or state.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2001 1st	2002 1st	2003 1st	2004 **1st**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 1st	2001-2002 5th	2002-2003 2nd	2003-2004 **7th**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2001 5th	1993-2002 6th	1994-2003 3rd	1995-2004 **4th**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia had the lowest incidence of low birth weight infants of the seven jurisdictions reviewed in 2004. BC's low birth weight rate was below the rates seen in the other provinces and states in every year between 1995 and 2004. In fact, BC's peak low birth weight ratio (5.6% in 2004) is below the lowest rates seen in most other jurisdictions reviewed.

Oregon's average (1995 through 2004) low birth weight ratio is only 7.2% higher than BC's, while California's is 20.2% higher than in BC.

On average, between 1995 and 2004, 5.2% of live births in BC had a birth weight below 2,500 grams. The average in the three other provinces examined was between 5.8% and 6.2% of live births and, in California, the average was 6.3%.

Performance Indicator 23 Supplemental Information: North American Comparison

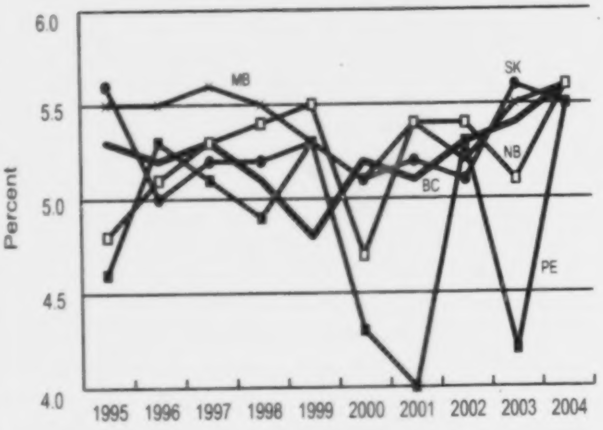
Low Birth Weight

How Does BC Compare?

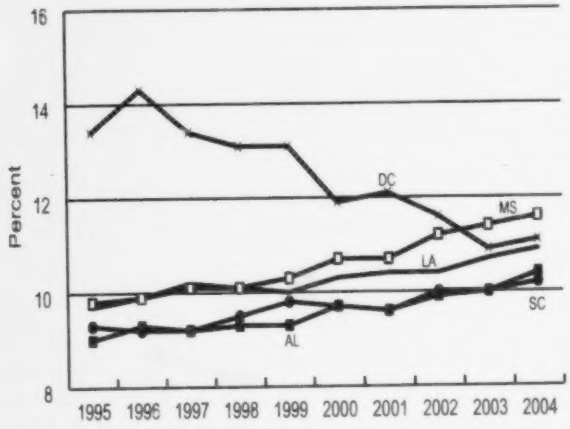
British Columbia ranked 3rd among the 61 subnational jurisdictions for average low birth weight rate in 2004. The top five jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their 1995 through 2004 average low birth weight rates were: Prince Edward Island (4.8%), New Brunswick (5.2%), British Columbia (5.2%), Saskatchewan (5.3%), and Manitoba (5.4%).

The bottom five jurisdictions were: Alabama (9.6%), South Carolina (9.7%), Louisiana (10.3%), Mississippi (10.6%) and the District of Columbia (12.5%).

Low Weight Births as a Percent of Live Births
Top Five Jurisdictions in North America



Low Weight Births as a Percent of Live Births
Bottom Five Jurisdictions in North America



Low Weight Births (less than 2,500 grams) as a Proportion of Live Births

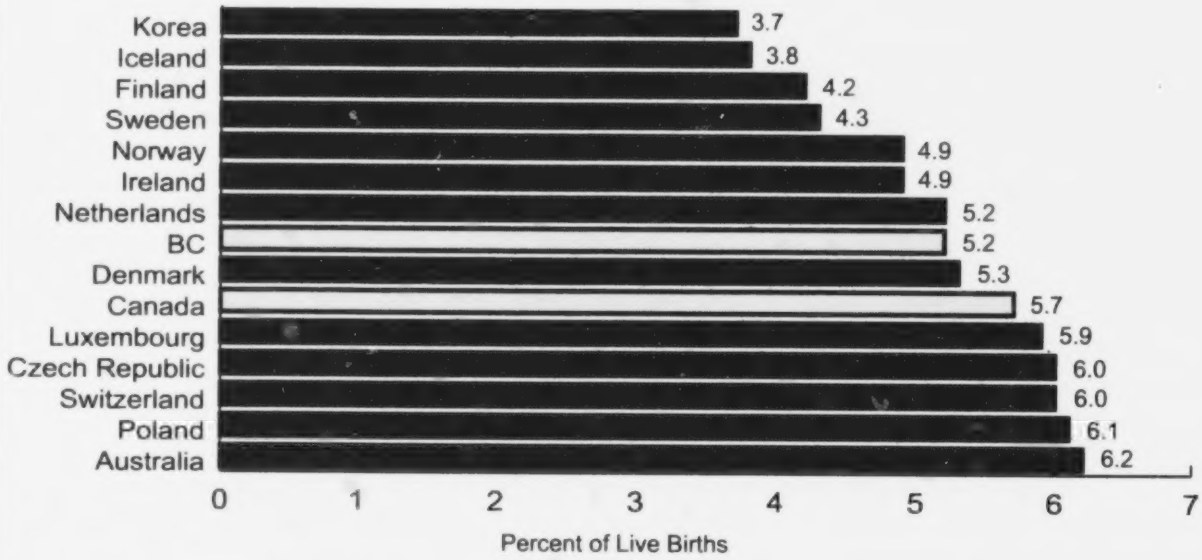
	1992	1995	1998	2001	2004	2004 rank	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average
Prince Edward Island	5.2	4.6	4.9	4.0	5.5	1	4.8	1
New Brunswick	5.4	4.8	5.4	5.4	5.6	4	5.2	2
British Columbia	**4.8**	**5.3**	**5.1**	**5.1**	**5.6**	**5**	**5.2**	**3**
Saskatchewan	4.9	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.6	2	5.3	4
Manitoba	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.6	3	5.4	5
Alabama	8.5	9.0	9.3	9.6	10.4	58	9.6	57
South Carolina	9.0	9.3	9.5	9.6	10.2	57	9.7	58
Louisiana	9.4	9.7	10.1	10.4	10.9	59	10.3	59
Mississippi	9.9	9.8	10.1	10.7	11.6	61	10.6	60
District of Columbia	14.3	13.4	13.1	12.1	11.1	60	12.5	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Department of Health and Human Services

Performance Indicator 23 Supplemental Information: International Comparison

Low Birth Weight

Low Birth Weight Rate, 1995 - 2004 Average, Percent



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats: Statistics Canada; OECD.

Description:

Infants which weigh less than 2,500 grams at birth are considered to have low birth weight. The ratio above represents the number of low birth weight infants as a percent of total live births.

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia performs well on the low birth weight rate in relation to OECD countries. British Columbia ranked 8th out of 31 jurisdictions with an average low birth weight rate of 5.2% over the 1995 to 2004 period. Korea ranked 1st with a low weight birth rate of 3.7%, followed by Iceland (3.8%), Finland (4.2%), Sweden (4.3%), and Norway and Ireland (both at 4.9%). Canada ranked 10th in the OECD with a low birth weight rate of 5.7%.

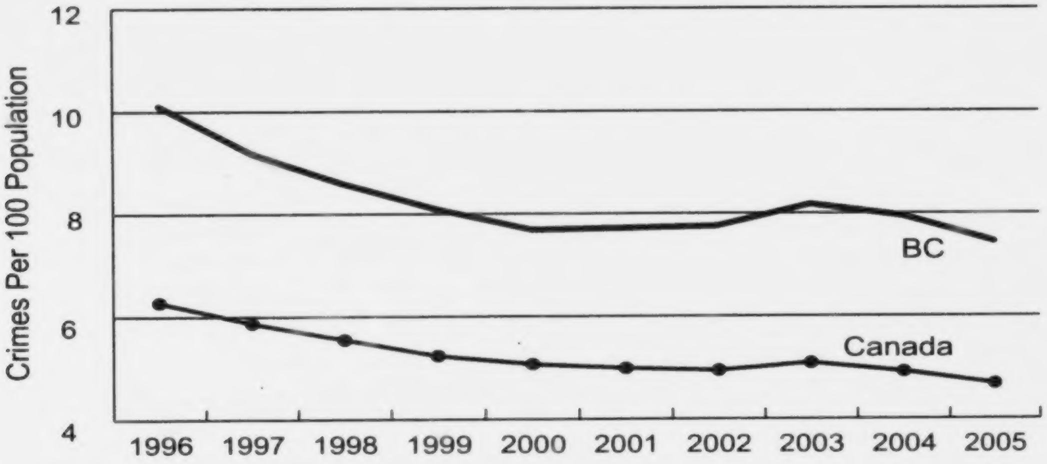
Mexico ranked last among OECD countries with an average low birth weight rate of 9.5%. After Mexico, Japan (8.4%), Hungary (8.4%), Turkey (7.9%) and Greece (7.8%) have the highest 1995 - 2004 average rates in the OECD.

Worldwide, 15.5% of all infants are born with low birthweight and 95% of these are in developing countries. At 16.5%, the level of low weight births in developing countries is more than double the 7.0% rate for developed countries. The highest incidence of low weight births is in South-Central Asia, where 27.0% of infants have low birth weight.*

Notes: Not all countries report a full set of 1995 - 2004 data. The gaps are as follows: Australia, 2004; Belgium, 1998-2004; Ireland, 2004; Italy, 2004; Luxembourg, 1999-2004; Mexico, 1995 & 1996; Netherlands, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2000 & 2004; Turkey, 1995-1997 & 1999-2002 & 2004; United Kingdom, 2004.
Canada's rate as reported by Statistics Canada (and used elsewhere in this report) differ slightly from those reported by the OECD for 1995-2004. Statistics Canada's values are used in the above analysis; this change did not affect Canada's rate or rank. *Source: United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organization (2004) Low Birthweight: Country, Regional and Global Estimates.

Performance Indicator 24 Personal and Property Crime Environment, Health and Society

Personal and Property Crime Rate for BC and Canada



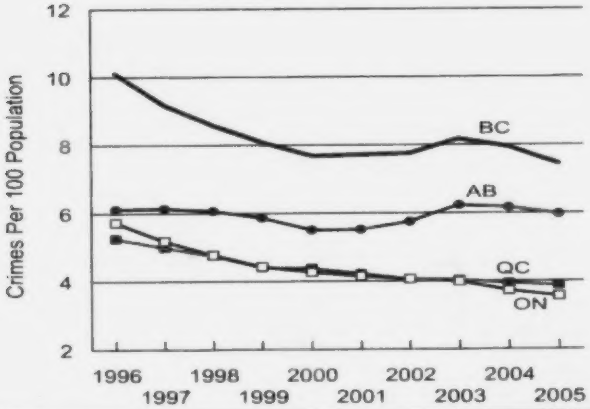
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

Personal crime includes those offenses in the Criminal Code known to police that deal with the application or threat of application of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, robbery and abduction.

Property crime includes incidents known to police involving unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but don't involve the threat or use of violence (e.g., theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods).

Provinces - Crime Rate



Why it's Important

The crime rate is both a reflection of community safety and security and an indicator of other social and economic problems. It can reflect a lack of employment opportunities, inadequate education or social dysfunction. Crime is costly to society, both from individual and community perspectives.

Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 10th	2003 9th	2004 9th	2005 **9th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 7th	2002-2003 5th	2003-2004 4th	2004-2005 **6th**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 4th	1994-2003 3rd	1995-2004 3rd	1996-2005 **2nd**

How Does BC Compare?

The crime rate in BC has fallen from 10.1 crimes per 100 people in 1996 to 7.4 crimes per 100 people in 2005, a 26.3% decrease. After three years of increases, crime rates in BC fell by 2.8% in 2004 and by 6.3% in 2005.

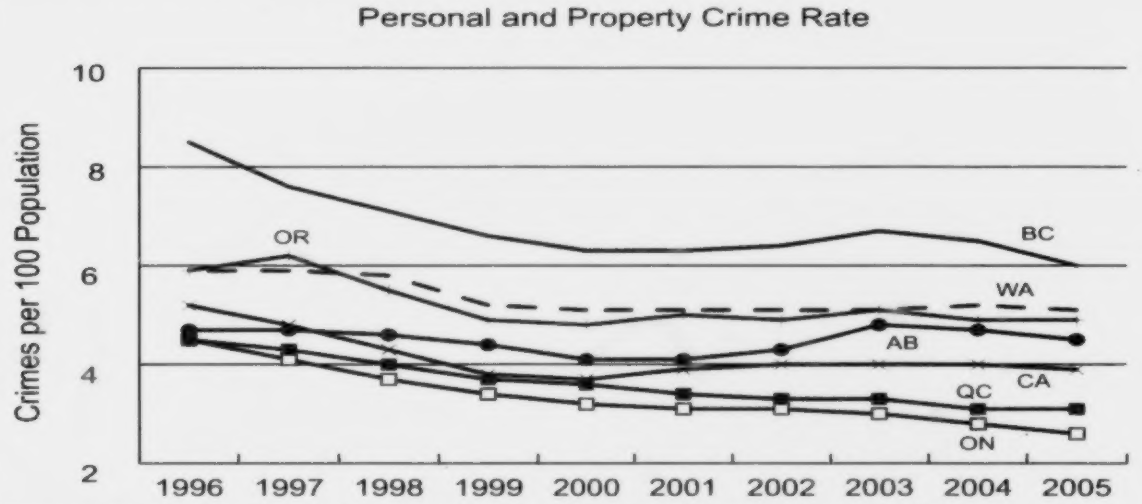
BC had the highest crime rate of any province in every year between 1996 and 2000 and again in 2002. On average, between 1996 and 2005, BC had the highest property crime rate and the third highest personal crime rate among the provinces.

Related BC Progress Board Research

The November 16, 2006 BC Progress Board publication **Reducing Crime and Improving Criminal Justice in British Columbia: Recommendations for Change** surveys the state of crime, criminality and criminal justice in British Columbia and provides strategic recommendations with options to make further reductions in provincial crime rates. See: www.bcprogressboard.com.

Performance Indicator 24 Supplemental Information: US Comparison

Personal and Property Crime Rate



Sources: BC Progress Board; Statistics Canada; US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Description:

The personal (violent) and property crime rate is based on the number of reported crimes per 100 people. Personal (violent) crime includes homicide, attempted murder, robbery, assault with a weapon and aggravated assault but leaves out assault level 1 (common assault, the most frequent assault charge) as well as sexual assaults because the Canadian and US data are not comparable for these categories. Property crime includes break and enter, theft of motor vehicle, and other theft.

A crime rate that is higher relative to another jurisdiction sends a signal that one is at a higher probability of being the victim of a crime. Also, a higher crime rate results in a perceived decline in social condition.

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia has the highest crime rate per 100 people among the seven provinces and states reviewed. In fact, BC had the highest crime rate in every year examined; BC's rate was between 17.3% and 43.6% higher than the next highest jurisdiction between 1996 and 2005.

Where BC Ranks

By Jurisdiction	2002 7th	2003 7th	2004 7th	**2005** **7th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 5th	2002-2003 6th	2003-2004 2nd*	2004-2005 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 5th	1994-2003 4th	1995-2004 5th	1996-2005 **4th**

The overall crime rate fell between 1996 and 2005 in every jurisdiction reviewed. The largest decline was in Ontario (42.0%) and the smallest was in Alberta (3.7%). British Columbia's decline was the third largest at 29.2%.

In 2005, California recorded the highest ratio of personal crime to combined personal and property crime (13.4%) among the jurisdictions reviewed while British Columbia recorded the lowest (5.1%).

Notes: This comparison is based on a subset of the total personal and property crimes used for performance indicator 24. Adjustments have been made to the Canadian data to make it comparable to the US data as outlined in Maire Gannon, Crime Comparisons Between Canada and The United States, Juristat, Vol. 21, no. 11, Statistics Canada cat. 85-002-XPE. *Does not match the 2005 Benchmarking Report due to data revisions.

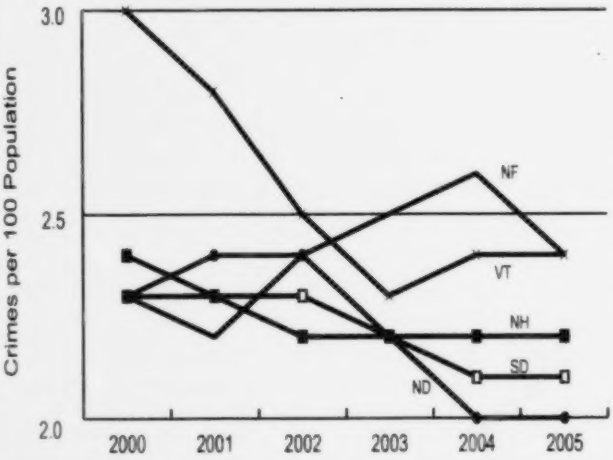
Personal and Property Crime Rate

How Does BC Compare?

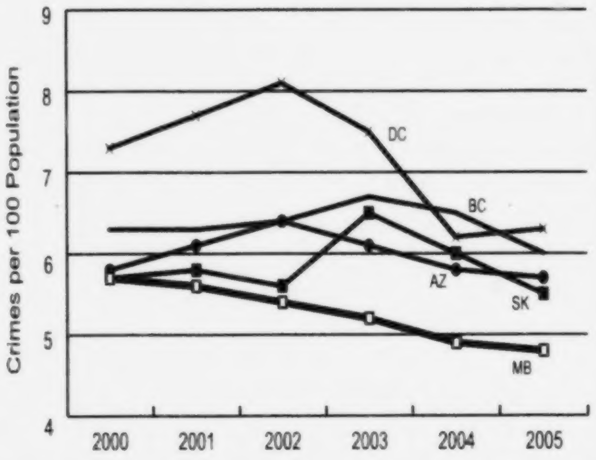
British Columbia ranked second-last among the 61 subnational jurisdictions on this indicator in 2005. The five top ranked jurisdictions (shown in the figure on the left) and their 2005 crime rates were: North Dakota (2.0), New Hampshire (2.2), South Dakota (2.1), Newfoundland & Labrador (2.4), and Vermont (2.4).

The five bottom ranked jurisdictions were: Manitoba (5.2), Saskatchewan (5.5), Arizona (5.7), British Columbia (6.0) and the District of Columbia (6.3).

Personal and Property Crime Rate
Best Five Jurisdictions in North America



Personal and Property Crime Rate
Worst Five Jurisdictions in North America



Total (Personal and Property) Crime Rate Per 100 Population

	1999	2001	2003	2005	2005 rank	1999 - 2005 Average	Rank for 1999 - 2005 Average
North Dakota	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.0	1	2.2	1
New Hampshire	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	3	2.3	2
South Dakota	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.1	2	2.3	3
Newfoundland & Labrador	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.4	5	2.4	4
Vermont	2.8	2.8	2.3	2.4	4	2.6	5
Manitoba	5.2	5.3	5.8	5.2	57	5.4	57
Saskatchewan	5.5	5.8	6.5	5.5	58	5.8	58
Arizona	5.6	6.1	6.1	5.7	59	5.9	59
British Columbia	**6.6**	**6.3**	**6.7**	**6.0**	**60**	**6.4**	**60**
District of Columbia	7.3	7.7	7.5	6.3	61	7.2	61

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau; Federal Bureau of Investigation

Note: This comparison is based on a subset of the total personal and property crimes used for performance indicator 24. Adjustments have been made to the Canadian data to make it comparable to the US data as outlined in Maire Gannon, Crime Comparisons Between Canada and The United States, Juristat, Vol. 21, no. 11, Statistics Canada cat. 85-002-XPE.

Crime Rates in North American Metropolitan Centres

A common way to monitor crime levels is to examine police reported crimes. In the preceding pages, the broad categories of violent crime and property crime are used to compare BC to other Canadian provinces and to US States. Beyond these top level categories, detailed information is available by province, state and major metropolitan areas. Statistics Canada recently investigated crime data reported in Canada and the United States and found that among eight "offense level" categories of crime, only minor differences existed in seven and one, sexual assault, (Canada) was not comparable to the US category of forcible rape.

The results show that, consistent with ranks reported above for British Columbia, Vancouver has the highest combined violent and property crime rate among major* Canadian and American cities. While Vancouver has high property crime rates – the highest break and enter and theft rates, the fourth-highest motor vehicle theft rate behind Winnipeg, Phoenix, and Edmonton and the highest overall rate – it ranks better on violent crimes and has rates well below those found in all the US cities profiled, except for Boston. Vancouver ranked eighth on the homicide rate with 2.9 per 100,000 population, above the national average of 2.0 but less than one-third of bottom ranked Detroit. A similar pattern shows up for aggravated assault and robbery although the spreads between Vancouver's rate and the bottom ranked cities are not as large. Vancouver's violent crime rate of 361 incidents per 100,000 population earned it a ninth place rank, behind top ranked Boston at 122 incidents per 100,000 population and ahead of bottom ranked Detroit with 697.

Crime Rates for Canadian and American Cities, 2005, per 100,000 population

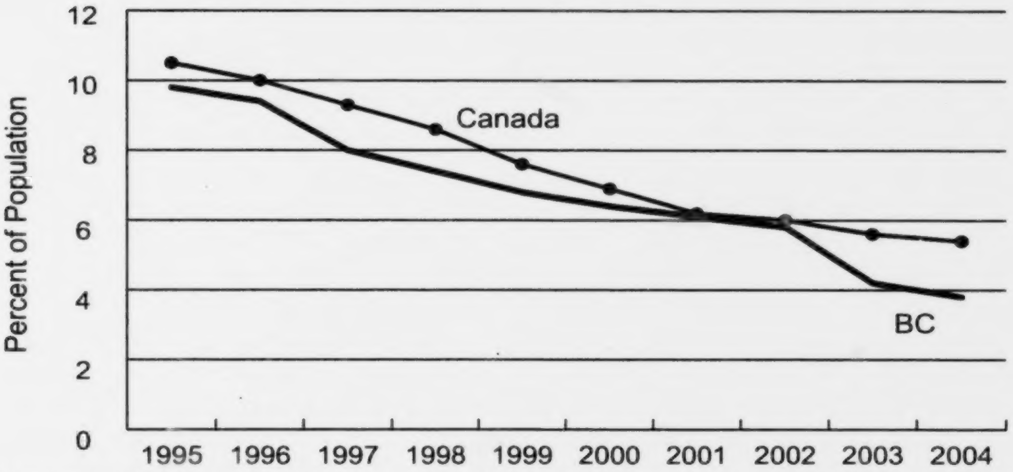
	Violent Crime				Property Crime				Total	Rank (of 18)
	Homicide	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Total	Break and Enter	Motor Vehicle Theft	Theft	Total		
Vancouver	**2.9**	**208**	**149**	**361**	**1,192**	**990**	**3,819**	**6,002**	**6,363**	**18**
Winnipeg	3.7	306	263	573	1,070	1,712	2,827	5,609	6,182	17
Phoenix	8.4	308	163	480	1,021	1,110	3,105	5,236	5,716	15
Dallas	6.8	315	195	517	1,051	541	3,136	4,728	5,244	14
Edmonton	4.3	185	142	332	1,025	1,059	3,452	5,536	5,867	16
Calgary	2.5	170	103	275	771	435	2,356	3,562	3,838	11
Detroit[1]	9.8	472	215	697	735	821	1,821	3,377	4,074	12
Montreal	1.3	171	147	320	892	649	1,849	3,390	3,710	10
Washington	8.3	230	223	462	385	625	2,026	3,036	3,498	9
Los Angeles	8.8	319	226	554	555	643	1,554	2,753	3,307	7
Philadelphia	9.2	333	253	594	500	346	1,889	2,734	3,328	8
Ottawa	1.2	117	83	201	710	307	1,688	2,705	2,906	5
Toronto	2.0	147	109	257	388	306	1,355	2,049	2,306	1
New York	5.0	232	203	440	317	250	1,408	1,976	2,416	3
Boston	2.7	254	119	122	466	283	1,481	2,230	2,352	2
British Columbia	2.3	198	109	308	1,166	818	3,730	5,714	6,023	n/a
Canada	2.0	166	89	257	804	496	2,040	3,340	3,596	n/a
US	5.6	291	141	437	727	417	2,286	3,430	3,867	n/a

Sources: Statistics Canada; US Federal Bureau of Investigation; Maire Gannon, Crime Comparisons Between Canada and The United States, Juristat, Vol. 21, no. 11, Statistics Canada cat. 85-002-XPE. Notes: [1]2002 rate for motor vehicle theft.

Note: *Canadian cities were chosen from Canada's Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and American cities were chosen from the similarly defined Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). The table above accounts for roughly 84.2 percent of all personal and property crimes reported in the Vancouver CMA in 2005. The Vancouver CMA has a population share of 50.7 percent and accounts for 51.4 percent of BC's personal and property crimes.

Performance Indicator 25 Income Assistance Environment, Health and Society

Income Assistance Recipients, BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; Human Resources and Social Development Canada; BC Employment and Income Assistance; Alberta Human Resources and Employment; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

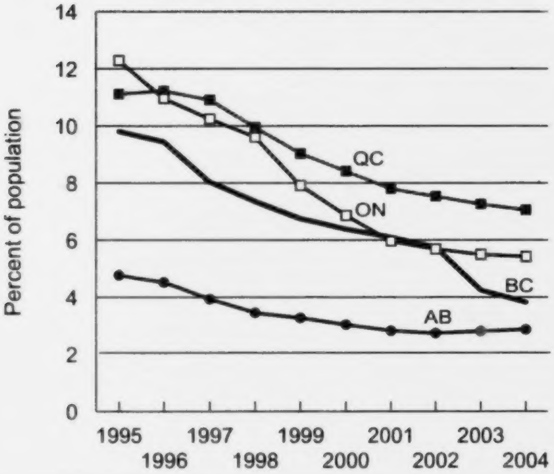
Description

This indicator tracks the number of income assistance beneficiaries as a percent of population. Income assistance (IA) provides essential income support, employment and training support, and other benefits.

Why it's Important

The proportion of the population collecting income assistance benefits (commonly referred to as welfare) is an important indicator of the economic health of a jurisdiction and may also indicate problems in the incentive structure of the income assistance programs available within a jurisdiction.

Provinces - Income Assistance



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2001 6th	2002 6th	2003 2nd	2004 **2nd**
1-Year Progress Check	2000-2001 9th	2001-2002 3rd	2002-2003 1st	2003-2004 **1st**
Period Progress Rank	1994-2001 7th	1994-2002 5th	1994-2003 3rd	1995-2004 **1st**

How Does BC Compare?

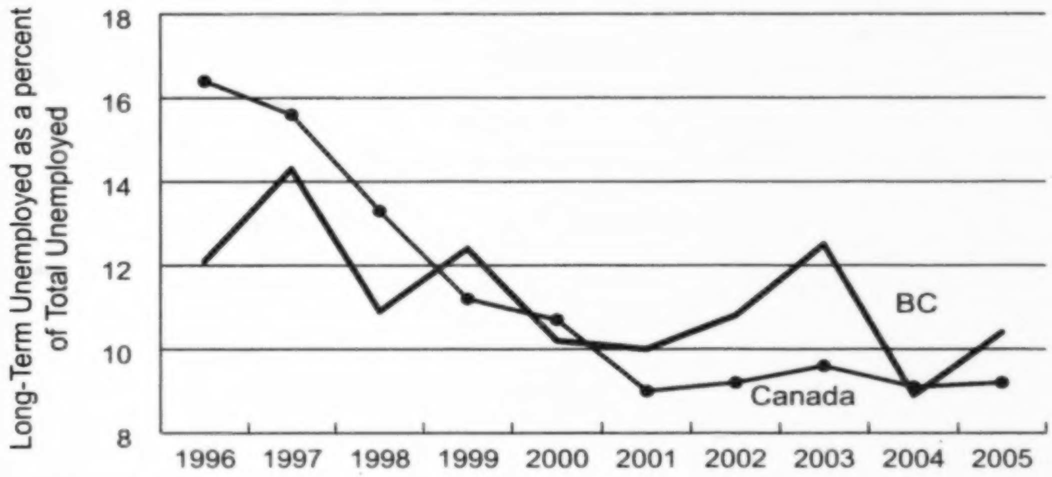
In 2004, BC ranked second in Canada with 3.8% of the population in receipt of income assistance. This was below the Canadian average of 5.4%. Alberta had the lowest ratio at 2.9%. The highest ratio, 9.6%, was in Newfoundland and Labrador.

British Columbia experienced a 61.0% decrease in the proportion of people on income assistance between 1995 and 2004. This was the largest decrease in the country. Newfoundland and Labrador (23.4%) had the smallest decrease. The percent of Canadians in receipt of income assistance fell by 48.3% between 1995 and 2004.

Note: This report uses a different dataset than the 2005 benchmarking report. Human Resources and Social Development Canada data are used in the current report, replacing Statistics Canada's SLID Survey data due to SLID's difficulty in targeting the population of interest. BC ranked second in 2004 using the SLID data as well. See Appendix B for more information.

Performance Indicator 26 Long-Term Unemployment Environment, Health and Society

Long-Term Unemployment Rate for BC and Canada



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

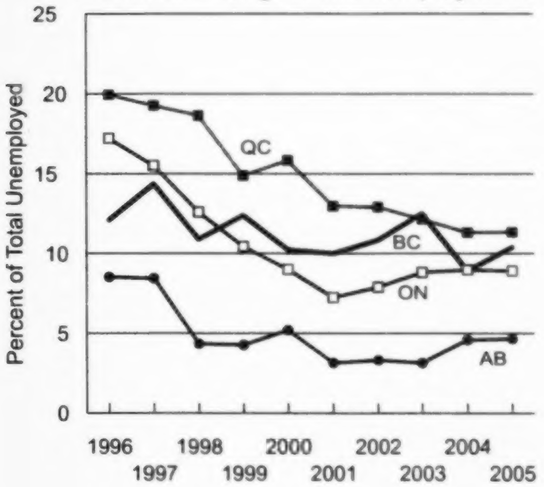
Description

The proportion of those unemployed (aged 15 and older) that were unemployed for 52 weeks or longer.

Why it's Important

Long-term unemployment generally remains high for several years during economic recoveries, even though the unemployment rate rapidly adjusts downward. The last workers to be laid off are generally the first to return to work when the economic situation improves. In contrast, people who have been unemployed for some time, along with less-skilled workers, tend to represent a larger proportion of the unemployed population.

Provinces - Long-Term Unemployment



Where BC Ranks

By Province	2002 9th	2003 10th	2004 8th	2005 **9th**
1-Year Progress Check	2001-2002 9th	2002-2003 10th	2003-2004 1st	2004-2005 **10th**
Period Progress Rank	1993-2002 10th	1994-2003 10th	1995-2004 9th	1996-2005 **10th**

How Does BC Compare?

British Columbia's long-term unemployment rate peaked at 14.3% in 1997 then generally fell to a relative low of 10.0% in 2001. The rate increased in 2002 and 2003 to reach 12.5%, saw a large drop to 8.9% in 2004 and increased to 10.4% in 2005. Long-term unemployment rates have fallen across the country since 1996. The largest decrease, 56.5% was in Newfoundland and Labrador. British Columbia had the smallest decrease, 14.1%.

The 52 week threshold has a significant effect on the long-term unemployment rate as Employment Insurance benefits expire. Canada's long-term unemployment rate (53+ weeks) was 4.6% in 2004, about half of the 9.1% rate for 52 or more weeks. This may be due to the long-term unemployed returning to work at the 52 week threshold or it may reflect people dropping out of the labour force altogether.

Related BC Progress Board Research

The forthcoming BC Progress Board publication **The Social Condition in BC** surveys BC's low income and long-term unemployment performance and offers suggestions for improvement.

Performance Indicator 26 Supplemental Information: International Comparison

Long-Term Unemployment

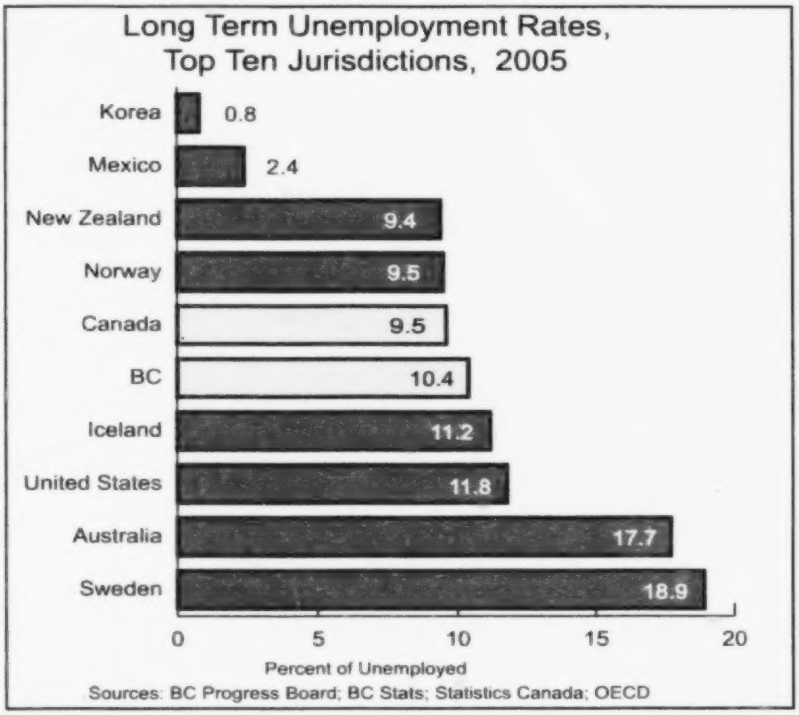
Description:
The proportion of those unemployed (aged 15 and older) that were unemployed for 52 weeks or longer.

How Does BC Compare?
In 2005, British Columbia ranked 6th compared to OECD countries although its rate (10.4%) was much higher than that in Korea or Mexico, which earned 1st and 2nd ranks with respective rates of 0.8 and 2.4 percent.

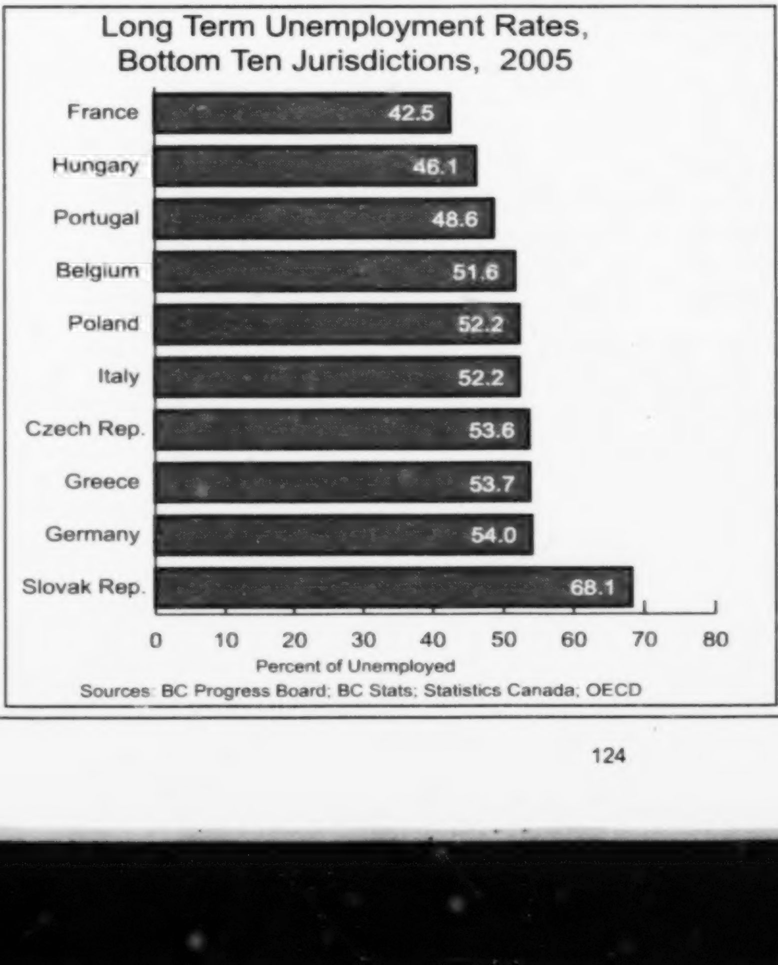
Canada ranked 5th in 2005 with a long-term unemployment rate of 9.5 percent.

The **United States** had a long-term unemployment rate of 11.8 percent in 2005, earning it an 8th place rank.

Both BC and Canada have low long-term unemployment rates compared to OECD countries. Both were well below the total OECD rate of 32.8 percent in 2005.



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Except for Norway and Iceland, Europe has much higher long-term unemployment rates on average than non-European OECD members, particularly the Slovak Republic (68.1% in 2005), Germany (54.0%), Greece (53.7%), and the Czech Republic (53.6%).

Sources: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2005), OECD Employment Outlook; BC Stats; Statistics Canada **Note:** The data shown for BC and Canada have not been adjusted to match the OECD standard. For Canada, the percentage point difference between the Statistics Canada presentation and the OECD presentation ranges from a low of 0.2 and 0.5.

Appendices

A. Board Members, Staff, and Advisory Group Members

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Credit Union Central of British Columbia

Dr. Richard Harris
Telus Professor of Economics
Simon Fraser University

Mr. Stuart Mackay
President
MMK Consulting

B. Methodology

Core Targets and Performance Indicators: Benchmarking Framework

To implement the benchmarking framework that forms the core of this report it is necessary to create statistical measures of the goals and their determinants. The goals are defined in terms of core target indicators, and the determinants of these core targets are termed performance indicators. Changes in the latter have implications for trends in the core target indicators.

Over the course of the fall of 2001, BC Progress Board staff engaged in an iterative process with the Board itself and its Economic Advisory Group (see Appendix A) to arrive at an array of suitable core target and performance indicators. For measures of environment, health and society, staff consulted with knowledgeable government officials. Following feedback on the 2001 and 2002 reports, the Progress Board made some minor adjustments. In Fall 2005, the Progress Board reviewed all core targets and performance indicators. As a result, the Board changed the core health and social outcome targets to composite indexes. To the extent possible, the selection of core target and performance indicators – in the establishment of the framework in 2001 and 2002, and in the four year review in 2005 – was conducted in accordance with the following criteria:

- The measures must provide timely cross-jurisdictional comparisons;
- The measures must represent an unbiased reporting of the condition (that is, they should be based on neutral and credible third party information);
- The measures should be consistent through time and across jurisdictions; and,
- Generally, the measures must not be collinear with other variables (that is, they should not simply replicate information presented in another measure).

An additional consideration governing the selection of measures for inclusion in the benchmarking exercise continues to be the Board's desire to keep the number of indicators small enough to make the exercise manageable and relatively easy to understand.

To provide an indication of how BC compares with other jurisdictions as well as vis-à-vis its own past performance, we have organized the indicators in this report into three "Progress Measures":

- *Rank by Province* – assesses BC's standing or performance relative to other jurisdictions in the most recent year for which data are available for the indicator. Each jurisdiction is given an ordinal ranking from "best" to "worst" with 1 signifying the best;

- *One Year Progress Check* – provides a rank based on progress (or rate of change) recorded during the most recent year for which data are available relative to the previous year. Each jurisdiction is again given an ordinal ranking from "best" to "worst"; and,
- *Period Progress Rank* – provides a rank based on progress experienced in each jurisdiction over a longer time period (the average annual rate of progress over the period). Each jurisdiction is again ranked from "best" to "worst" using an ordinal rank with 1 for the best progress.

Supplemental US and North American Comparisons: Benchmarking Framework

To provide an indication of how BC compares with US jurisdictions, the report contains supplemental information on seven jurisdictions: BC, Alberta, Quebec, Ontario, Washington, Oregon and California and, where possible, for all sixty-one subnational jurisdictions in Canada and the United States. Here too, the data are organized around three Progress Measures:

- Rank by Jurisdiction – assesses BC's performance relative to other jurisdictions in the most recent year for which data is available for the indicator. Each jurisdiction is given an ordinal ranking from "best" to "worst" with 1 signifying the best among the seven jurisdictions reviewed in this part of the report;
- One Year Progress Check – provides a rank based on progress (or the rate of change) experienced in the most recent year for which data is available relative to the previous year. Each jurisdiction is again given an ordinal ranking from "best" to "worst"; and,
- Period Progress Rank – provides a rank based on progress experienced in each jurisdiction over a longer time period (the average annual rate of progress over the period). Each jurisdiction is again ranked from "best" to "worst" using an ordinal rank with 1 for the best progress.

One of the difficulties with comparing performance between Canada and the United States is that economic activity is measured in the two countries' respective national currencies. To compare economic performance it is necessary to convert the data into a common currency – whether US or Canadian dollars.

Two measures of the exchange rate are often employed to convert indicators into a common currency. The first is the actual market exchange rate. The second involves using what is known as a Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) exchange rate. Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) are the rates of currency conversion that eliminate the differences in price levels between countries. Per capita volume indices based on PPP converted data reflect only differences in the volume of goods and services produced.

International Performance Indicators

As Canada is a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) it is relatively easy to get consistent data for Canada and the other member countries. Comparing British Columbia's performance introduces some challenges, but none that cannot be dealt with.

The basic approach for data in this section is to start with the OECD data and adjust the BC data to match it. This produces data that does not match data reported in the main benchmarking section because of differences in base years (usually 2000 for international data vs. 1997 for BC data) and base currencies (US currency is the standard for international comparisons while Canadian currency is used elsewhere in this report). We convert to the OECD standard so that we only need to make adjustments to the BC and Canadian data rather than to the entire OECD dataset. The differences between Canadian (and therefore BC) data as reported by Statistics Canada and Canadian data as reported by the OECD are small once base year and currency differences have been factored out.

Within the basic approach there are two alternative methods that produce reasonable results. One, determine the differences between Canadian data as reported by Statistics Canada and as reported by OECD, then adjust the Statistics Canada data to match the OECD definition (to ensure comparability) and finally, adjust the BC data (in the same manner as the Canadian data was adjusted) to match the OECD definition. Two, determine the differences between Canadian data as reported by Statistics Canada and as reported by OECD, then adjust the Statistics Canada data to match the OECD definition (to ensure comparability) and finally, estimate BC's international position based on its position within Canada. This method is used when adjustments to the BC data are not possible.

The most recent data available are incorporated into this volume. In cases where OECD databases do not yet reflect recent Statistics Canada updates, the OECD series is updated with the current Statistics Canada data. Previous reports incorporated an adjustment to Statistics Canada's GDP data in order to make it consistent with OECD reporting. This is no longer necessary as the OECD no longer removes "financial services indirectly measured (FISIM)" from the Canadian data.

Additions and Changes

Below is a list of the additions and changes to the 2006 benchmarking Report relative to the 2005 Report released in December 2005. Throughout the report, there are technical notes outlining specific changes and alterations to individual indicators.

Additions to the 2006 Reporting Structure Relevant to Volume I:

- North American comparisons for Core Target 1: Economic Growth added
- Two provincial - state comparisons (Tax Burden and Surplus/Deficit as a Percent of GDP) which had been dropped for the 2005 Report because of US data availability problems have been reinstated.

Changes to the 2006 Reporting Structure Relevant to Volume I:

- The data source for Performance Indicator 25: Income Assistance has been changed from Statistics Canada's SLID to Human Resources and Social Development's recipient data. Further information follows this section.
- Many 2005 Topic Boxes have been removed. The boxes, along with a brief overview and website link are listed after the following section.

Income Assistance Data: The Switch from SLID to HRSD

There are two sets of data to choose from for Performance Indicator 25: Income Assistance. The first, which we have used in past reports, is from Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID). The second is collected and published by Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD) and is based on actual caseload data from the relevant provincial ministries. Neither data set is without comparability problems. This note explains our choice of HRSD data over SLID.

Please note that HRSD data are often referred to as HRDC data. This is because the federal ministry which collects these data (HRSD) used to be called Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC). This department was split and renamed "Human Resources and Skills Development Canada" and "Social Development Canada" and then re-joined and given its current name. To avoid confusion, many people continue to use the original department name.

Although SLID generally produces excellent data it has been shown to have some trouble tracking people in the so-called income "tails" – those with very low and very high income (see the Statistics Canada publication "Revisiting Recent Trends in Canadian After-Tax Income Inequality Using Census Data" by Marc Frenette, David Green and Kevin Milligan, catalogue no. 11F0019MIE - No. 274). People in receipt of income assistance are in the low income tail of the income distribution and we can therefore expect SLID to have trouble producing accurate data for this segment of the population. Analyses by the BC Progress Board show some unexpected fluctuations from year to year in income assistance using SLID.

The following warning accompanies the HRSD data: "Programs, definitions and reporting systems vary considerably among provinces or within a given province over time; data are not comparable and should be used as estimates only." Although this dataset has some comparability problems it is a better source than SLID for our purposes. We will continue to work to improve comparability in this dataset.

To arrive at our final 1993-2004 dataset we started with the HRSD data tables found at the following locations:

- http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/cs/sp/sdc/socpol/tables/pre/tab435.xls and
- http://www.sdc.gc.ca/en/cs/sp/sdc/socpol/tables/pre/tab361.xls.

We subtracted "Children in the Home of a Relative" (CIHR) cases from the BC numbers and added "Assured Income Support to the Handicapped" (AISH) cases to the Alberta numbers. The CIHR program provides non-income or asset tested payments to relatives who take children into their care. The AISH program is income and asset tested and is T5 social assistance income as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The raw data and adjustments are presented in the following table.

Income Assistance Data as used in Provincial Comparison

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
BC	319,671	349,652	370,236	365,724	317,150	293,009	270,804	258,034	248,455	236,692	176,412	160,517
AB	196,000	154,900	130,300	125,500	111,300	100,100	96,600	91,300	86,200	85,200	88,700	91,700
SK	68,200	81,000	82,200	80,600	79,700	72,500	66,500	63,800	60,900	56,100	53,200	51,800
MB	88,000	89,300	85,200	85,800	79,100	72,700	68,700	63,300	60,500	60,100	59,900	60,800
ON	1,287,000	1,379,300	1,344,600	1,214,600	1,149,600	1,091,300	910,100	802,000	709,200	687,600	673,900	672,000
QC	741,400	787,200	802,200	813,200	793,300	725,700	661,300	618,900	576,600	560,800	544,200	532,200
NB	78,100	73,500	67,400	67,100	70,600	67,100	61,800	56,300	52,900	50,700	49,300	47,000
NS	98,700	104,000	104,000	103,100	93,700	85,500	80,900	73,700	66,800	61,500	58,300	56,300
PE	12,600	13,100	12,400	11,700	11,100	10,900	9,800	8,400	7,900	7,500	7,000	6,605
NF	68,100	67,400	71,300	72,000	71,900	64,600	59,900	59,400	54,400	52,100	51,200	49,800
YT	2,500	2,400	2,100	1,700	2,000	2,100	1,700	1,400	1,300	1,000	1,100	1,300
NT	11,100	11,000	12,000	11,800	12,800	10,700	11,300	3,400	2,200	2,100	1,900	1,793
NV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,300	7,300	8,100	7,100	8,600
Canada	2,971,371	3,112,752	3,083,936	2,952,824	2,792,250	2,596,209	2,299,404	2,107,234	1,934,655	1,869,492	1,772,212	1,740,414
Adjustments Included in Data Above												
BC CIHR	3,629	3,848	4,064	4,176	4,150	4,391	4,396	4,366	4,445	4,508	4,288	4,483
AB AISH	0	16,400	17,100	19,900	21,500	23,100	24,700	26,500	28,200	29,800	30,900	31,500

Notes: Non-shaded areas are equivalent to the raw HRSD data. CIHR cases have been subtracted from the raw BC data. AISH cases have been added to the raw Alberta data. The Canada total has been recalculated to account for the changes in BC and Alberta. For 2004, the total for Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territory (and therefore Canada) have been estimated.

Topic Boxes That Have Been Removed

Productivity Growth and Income

Productivity growth is fundamental to increasing the amount individuals have to spend or save and, therefore, each individual's material standard of living. It also provides a sustainable source of economic growth. Unfortunately, productivity growth in both Canada and BC has been stagnant for the past few years, especially when compared to emerging economies like China and India. Renewed focus needs to be placed on stimulating productivity growth to ensure high standards of living in BC in the future.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Productivity_Growth_Income.pdf

Discussion of Employment Measures

Employment in BC grew by 2.3 percent between 2003 and 2004 for a third place rank in Canada, and by 1.7 percent per year on average between 1995 and 2004 for a sixth place rank. British Columbia's unemployment rate over the past decade ranged from a high of 8.9 percent in 1998 to a low of 7.2 percent in 2000 and again for 2004.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Employment_Measures.pdf

Productivity

Canada's productivity growth and therefore overall labour productivity have lagged behind the US over the past two decades. Although Canada has had strong economic performance since 1995, our productivity vis-a-vis the US has deteriorated, especially since 2000. In 2004, Canada's business sector productivity was 74 percent of the United States, the lowest since the 1950s; it has been deteriorating compared to other jurisdictions as well. Growing productivity is essential to attracting and retaining increasingly mobile investment and resources.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Productivity.pdf

Exports, Imports and the Balance of Trade

The real value of imports to and exports from BC grew at above average levels from 2003 to 2004, by 4.9 percent for exports and 6.4 percent for imports. BC continues to be highly trade intense economy that exports the majority of its goods internationally (67.5% of exports). For 2004, BC's top international exports were: Wood Products (32.4%), Pulp and Paper Products (16%), and Energy Products (14.5%).

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Exports_Imports.pdf

Immigration in BC and Canada

Throughout the history of BC, immigration has been a key driver of both population and economic growth. In Canada, the foreign-born share of the population grew from 3.7% in the 1950s to 18.4% in 2001, and for 2001, 2002 and 2003 the net international migration to Canada accounted for the majority (60%) of population growth. Debate surrounding the true economic and social impacts of immigration in BC will increase in the coming years, as demographic shifts necessitate heightened future dependence on immigration as a source of economic growth.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Immigration.pdf

Education and Technology: Access to Computers at School

Computer skills are increasingly becoming an essential part of basic K-12 education. A first – and integral – step to gaining computer literacy is the ability to access and use computers at school. Internationally, Canada ranks below the US, Australia, and New Zealand, among others in terms of number of 15-year-old students per computer. Cross-provincially, BC ranks seventh, right at the Canadian average of five students per computer.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Education_Technology_Access.pdf

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) Results

In 2004/05, 79% of grade four and 77% of grade seven students met or exceeded expectations in reading comprehension, 93% of grade four students and 90% of grade seven students achieved this threshold in writing, and 87% of grade fours, and 83% of grade sevens met or exceeded expectations in numeracy.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Foundation_Skills.pdf

Canada and US Comparative University Completion

In 2000, 17.7% of Canadians and 25.0% of Americans (25 years and older) held a bachelor degree or higher. By 2004, the Canadian ratio had increased to 19.8% and the US ratio to 27.0%, narrowing the US-Canada gap by 4.8%. Among provinces and states, British Columbia ranked 48th with a university completion rate of 19.9%, up from 18.1% in 2000. BC and Ontario (which earned the 42nd rank with a 22.6% rate) were the only Canadian provinces with university completion rates higher than any of the US states.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Canada_US_Comparative.pdf

Universities and Intellectual Property Commercialization

Universities and other post-secondary institutions account for a significant portion of innovation in Canada. In 2002, the higher education sector accounted for 26.7% of Canada's research personnel (33.4% of BC's) and, in 2003, 16% of Canada's Gross Expenditures on Research and Development (GERD). Although universities have always been a source of ideas through research and development, over the past few years Canadian post-secondary institutions have been making large scale advances in commercialization, both by inventing at a greater rate and increasingly commercializing their inventions.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Universities_Intellectual_Property.pdf

Internet Connectivity and Closing the Digital Divide

Internet access is growing quickly in Canada. The ability to access the Internet means being able to retrieve large amounts of information and easily access many otherwise inaccessible services. British Columbia, at 70.6% in 2003, had the highest percentage of households connected to the Internet in Canada; the Canadian average was 64.2%. Despite this, an urban/rural connectivity divide currently exists in BC, but is improving.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Internet_Connectivity.pdf

Productivity and R&D Expenditures

Research and development (R&D) creates technological change, which feeds into the innovation process and eventually means new products and services that make businesses more efficient, thereby increasing overall productivity. Results from US studies strongly suggest that R&D spending has a positive influence on productivity with a rate of return that likely exceeds that of conventional investments. Though often separated, public and private R&D have positive spillover effects on each other, as does foreign R&D on domestic productivity.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_Productivity_RD_Exp.pdf

High Skill Employment and Innovation

One of the most recognized factors considered integral to the innovation process is human capital – the level of skill and education of the workforce. The connection between education and innovation is traditionally linked to professions directly involved in R&D, specifically those in the natural and applied sciences and in particular, engineering. The growing prominence of the knowledge-based economy, however, means an increasingly broad based focus on skill development, education and training.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EIE_High_Skill.pdf

British Columbia and International Protected Areas

BC's natural diversity has been a distinct element in the province's unique social, economic, and environmental heritage. BC's natural surroundings provide recreational activities for the province's residents and visitors and form the foundation of our active and healthy society. In total, BC has increased protected areas from 6.1% of the provincial land base in 1992 to 13.0% in 2003, the highest level in the country. The Canadian provincial average is 8.4%.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EHS_BC_Int_Protected_Areas.pdf

British Columbia and Species at Risk

Living in Canada's most biologically diverse province brings a number of challenges in terms of balancing economic growth, population growth, and human development with the protection of our natural ecosystems. In order to better understand, and thereby protect, the province's numerous species, several provincial and federal organizations identify and track those species at risk or in danger of extinction. Growing numbers of species at risk need to be interpreted with caution, however, and should not be taken as an indication of environmental deterioration.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EHS_BC_Species_Risk.pdf

The New Health Outcomes Index

The introduction of the Health Outcomes Index coincides with an expansion of the BC Progress Board's benchmarking of health indicators. New to our formal reporting structure this year are: cardiovascular disease mortality; infant mortality; and, potential years of life lost. With the exception of infant mortality these topics have been covered in previous reports as supplemental information; from this year forward, all three are new performance indicators.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EHS_New_Health_Outcomes.pdf

Preventive Health Care

Health care costs consume a significant portion of BC's public revenues – a full 43% of the total provincial budget in 2005/06 at a cost of $11.6 billion. These costs show no sign of diminishing in the near future as BC's demographics shift towards an aging population. Because of their perceived life saving and cost saving benefits, predictive and preventive health care will be of increasing importance as BC and Canada age.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EHS_Preventative_Health.pdf

The New Social Condition Index

The introduction of the Social Condition Index coincides with an expansion of the BC Progress Board's benchmarking of social indicators. New to our formal reporting structure this year are income assistance and long-term unemployment. Income assistance has been addressed in previous reports as a supplemental topic in our regional BC comparisons, but not in province to province comparisons. Long-term unemployment has not been covered in our previous benchmarking reports.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EHS_New_Social_Condition.pdf

Persistence of High LICO Ratios in British Columbia

British Columbia has historically had a high Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) ratio based on the percentage of families under the (1992 base) after-tax low income line. Between 1990 and 2003, BC had two eighth place ranks, and four each of seventh, ninth and last place ranks. The low income rate (LIR) gap between in BC is often explained by differences in employment engagement. For example, families in Vancouver were almost twice as likely to have no connection whatsoever to the labour market as families in Toronto (10.2% versus 5.3%). Little or none of the LIR gap was explained by demographic factors such as family size, age, immigrant status, education and enrolment status.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EHS_Persistence_High_LICO.pdf

The Underground Economy

A portion of BC's economic activity is never recorded in official statistics. Although the existence of the underground economy is widely acknowledged, the fact that it is hidden makes determining its size and economic impact difficult. Estimates of the size of the total underground economy in Canada – both legal and illegal – range from 11.7% to 15.3% of GDP. With a large underground economy, citizens who fully and accurately report income are essentially penalized as tax rates are adjusted upwards to reach desired revenue targets with relatively fewer British Columbians paying for public health, education and infrastructure that is enjoyed by all – including those earning income in the underground economy.

Available at: http://www.bcprogressboard.com/2005Report/Annual/TB/EHS_Underground_Economy.pdf

List of Acronyms

Provinces:

- British Columbia – BC
- Alberta – AB
- Saskatchewan – SK
- Manitoba – MB
- Ontario – ON
- Quebec – QC
- New Brunswick – NB
- Nova Scotia – NS
- Prince Edward Island – PE
- Newfoundland and Labrador – NF

States:

- California – CA
- Oregon – OR
- Washington State – WA

Statistical:

- BLS – Bureau of Labor Statistics (US)
- BEA – Bureau of Economic Analysis (US)
- EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (US)
- DHSS – Department of Health and Human Services (US)
- IRS – Internal Revenue Service (US)
- FMS – Statistics Canada's Financial Management System
- GFCF – Gross Fixed Capital Formation
- R&D – Research and Development
- GERD – Gross Expenditures on Research and Development

International:

- OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

OECD Member Countries

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Luxembourg
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovak Republic
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States

C. Glossary of Terms

Economy, Innovation and Education

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Per Capita ($1997)

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is a measure of current economic output expressed on a per person basis. GDP is the value added to the economy by the current productive activities of individuals, businesses, governments and non-residents (who may purchase and sell goods and services to British Columbians). The provincial GDP includes all activities that take place within its borders. The "real" or constant dollar estimates are inflation adjusted and expressed in terms of a base year, in this case, 1997. Constant dollar estimates are calculated by dividing current dollar data by a price index that measures changes in the prices of specific goods and services relative to 1997. Thus "real" GDP measures real change in the size of the economy by excluding the change which is the result of inflation. The July 1 population estimate is used to calculate the per capita values.

Real Personal Disposable Income (PDI) Per Capita ($1997)

Real Personal Disposable Income (PDI) per capita is the value, adjusted to remove the effects of inflation, of personal income left after the payment of income tax, contributions to social insurance plans (e.g., employment insurance premiums) and various other transfers to government such as medical insurance premiums, expressed on a per person basis. Personal income includes all income received by individuals (and societies of individuals such as trusteed pension plans) who are resident in the province, whether earned at home or elsewhere. This includes both earnings and transfer income: wages and salaries; employer contributions to pensions, EI, CPP, WCB etc; net income of farm operators and unincorporated businesses; interest and miscellaneous investment income; government transfers such as welfare, OAS and EI benefits; and transfers from corporations (e.g., forgiveness of bad debts) and individuals. Constant (real) dollar estimates are calculated by dividing current dollar data by a price index that measures changes in the prices of consumer goods and services relative to 1997. The July 1 population estimate is used to calculate the per capita values.

Employment to Population Ratio (15 to 64)

The employment to population ratio (15 to 64) is the number of employed persons aged 15 to 64 (i.e., working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business or with a job but absent from work in the survey week) expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 64. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Average Hourly Earnings

Average hourly earnings are based on payroll and hours worked data for employees whose basic wage is expressed as an hourly rate. (About half of employees fall into this category). Information is gathered from all employers in Canada for whom T-4 Supplementary Forms must be completed, except for those in agriculture, fishing and trapping, private household services, religious organizations and military personnel. Data is collected for the last pay week of each month and annual figures are the weighted averages of the twelve monthly surveys. Average hourly earnings are calculated by dividing the total weekly payroll (for employees paid by the hour) by the total weekly paid hours for those employees. Payroll is the gross amount before deductions for income tax, EI, CPP etc. and includes overtime pay, bonuses and other special payments. Excluded are taxable benefits and employer contributions to pension plans, EI, CPP etc. Employee numbers include both full and part-time/part-week.

Labour Productivity (Business Sector)

Labour productivity is a measure of the overall efficiency of the economy. It is calculated as the ratio of constant dollar GDP (or output) in the business sector to total worker-hours (a measure of the quantity of labour used in production). Worker-hours are equal to the number of people employed times average hours worked in a year.

The labour productivity estimates are for the business sector, which includes all industries in the economy except for government, health care, education, and the imputed rental income component of GDP. These industries are excluded because their output (or much of their output) is not a service that is bought or sold so it has no market valuation. GDP measures for these industries are largely based on wage data so by definition, there can be little or no productivity growth. Imputed rental income is excluded because it is a measure of the potential rental income that is foregone by homeowners who choose to live in, rather than rent out, their property, and does not have any corresponding employment.

Although labour productivity measures are commonly used because they are relatively easy to calculate, they are an imperfect measure of productivity change over time. Labour, capital and technological change all play a role in economic growth. Labour productivity change may be the result of either more efficient use of labour inputs, or changes in the amount or efficiency with which capital inputs (such as machinery and equipment) are used in production.

When comparing productivity among jurisdictions, it is important to take into account differences in industrial structure as some industries by their very nature will have higher labour productivity than others. For example, labour productivity in personal service industries will by definition be lower than in an industry such as oil refining, where production is capital intensive.

Total Exports per Capita ($1997)

Total exports per capita is the ratio of the total value of exports in a given calendar year to the population as of July 1st in that year. Exports include all types of goods and services that are produced in a given province but consumed outside its boundaries. Service exports are primarily services such as transportation, storage and insurance, which are provided to non-residents who export or import goods that are transported through a province, or enter or leave the country through its customs ports. Provinces engage in trade with other regions of Canada, as well as with international trading partners, so both inter-provincial and international exports are included in the total.

Taxpayer-Supported Debt to GDP

The appropriate measure of net public debt burden is in relation to the size of the gross domestic product (GDP). Taxpayer-supported debt includes government direct debt, and the guaranteed and non-guaranteed debt of taxpayer-supported Crown corporations and agencies that require a subsidy from the provincial government.

Per Capita Tax Burden (Consolidated Provincial and Local Governments - FMS)

Estimates of the per capita tax burden include the following (on a per person basis):

- Income taxes (personal, corporate, and specific mining and logging taxes)
- Consumption taxes (sales taxes, taxes on alcohol, tobacco, gasoline and motive fuels, amusement taxes, and profits from liquor and gaming operations)
- Property taxes (taxes on land and capital)
- Other taxes (payroll taxes, fees for motor vehicle licenses, natural resource taxes and licenses, and other miscellaneous taxes)
- Health insurance premiums
- Contributions to social insurance plans.

Top Marginal Tax Rate
To arrive at the top marginal personal income tax rate, the peak marginal tax rate at the provincial level is added to the peak rate set by the federal government.

Provincial Deficit/Surplus Levels
A deficit is an excess of expenditure over government revenue, while a surplus is an excess of revenue over expenditure.

Net Inter-provincial Migration
Net inter-provincial migration is the difference between the number of those moving to British Columbia from the rest of Canada and those leaving British Columbia to take up residence elsewhere in Canada.

Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation (Business Investment)
Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation is a measure of business spending on machinery and equipment, building and engineering construction. Also included is the value of current residential construction, alterations and improvements to existing buildings and property transfer costs (such as real estate commissions and property transfer taxes). The constant dollar estimates are inflation adjusted and expressed in terms of a base year, in this case, 1997. Constant dollar estimates are calculated by dividing current dollar data by a price index that measures changes in the prices of these goods and services relative to 1997. Gross Fixed Capital Formation is a component of the Gross Domestic Product.

Secondary School Graduation Rate
The secondary school graduation rate is the number of students graduating from secondary schools per 1,000 population 18 years of age (at July 1 each year). For graduation, the year indicated is the end of the academic year. Secondary school graduations for Quebec include graduates from adult and trade/vocational programs. Graduates of night school and correspondence courses for Ontario adults are excluded. Public, private and federal schools are included.

University Completion Rate
The university completion rate is the number of persons aged 25 to 54 with a university degree expressed as a percentage of the population between 25 and 54 years of age. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Research and Development as a Percent of GDP
Research and Development (R & D) as a percent of GDP is the sum of expenditures reported by (or estimated for) performing sectors - government, business, higher education and private non-profit organizations - for research and development activity in Canada expressed as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product. The Gross Domestic Product is the value added to the economy by the current productive activities of individuals, businesses, governments and non-residents.

Natural and Applied Sciences Employment as a Percent of Total Employment
Natural and applied sciences employment as a percent of total employment is the number of persons employed in occupations in Natural and Applied Sciences expressed as a percentage of total employment. Included are occupations in the physical sciences, engineers, architects, mathematicians, systems analysts and programmers and associated technical occupations. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Financial Management System (FMS) - Government Sector

Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS) is an accounting system for government statistics that puts data for federal, provincial and local governments on a consistent basis by using the same definition of government for all jurisdictions. Data are based on public accounts estimates, and budget information released by the various levels of government, but have been reworked to include all agencies that are under the direct control of the government, whether or not their activities have been reported in the public accounts of the various jurisdictions.

Provincial government data includes, in addition to government ministries or departments, agencies such as the Workers' Compensation Board, financing authorities, and other agencies of government such as the BC Assessment Authority in the case of British Columbia. By including all government-controlled agencies, it is possible to make more meaningful comparisons of the footprint governments leave in each jurisdiction.

Consolidated provincial/local figures have been amalgamated to ensure that inter-governmental transfers between provincial and local governments are not double-counted.

Environment, Health and Society

Environmental Quality

A summary of BC's overall environmental quality. It is derived from three environmental performance indicators: air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and protected areas. Environmental Quality rankings are the simple average of each province's rank on the three indicators.

Air Quality

Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulates in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. Most air quality monitors measure fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. Provinces began to measure $PM_{2.5}$ data in 2001. Factories, cars, power plants, construction activity, and numerous other man-made sources emit fine particulates. Monitoring for particulates is relatively new in Canada and most continuous monitoring stations do not have more than 5 or 6 years of data.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Per Capita

The number of tonnes of greenhouse gases which are emitted per person. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, ozone, methane and nitrous oxide.

Protected Areas

Protected areas refer to the strictest level of protection (e.g., national parks and ecological reserves). Refer to The World Conservation Union (IUCN) for the various categories of protection. The data for this indicator are generated through an automated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) routine which assesses ecological representation by protected areas in Canada using a landscape-based gap analysis methodology. For more information on the methodology see: Development of an automated GIS routine to assess ecological representation by protected areas in Canada using a landscape-based gap analysis methodology, World Wildlife Fund Canada.

Health Outcomes

A summary of BC's health outcome indicators as tracked by the BC Progress Board. It is derived from five performance indicators: life expectancy at birth, cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, infant mortality and potential years of life lost. Health Outcome rankings are the simple average of each province's rank on the five indicators.

Life Expectancy at Birth
Life expectancy at birth is the average number of remaining years of life at birth based on current mortality rates.

Cancer Mortality Rate
The cancer mortality rate is the number of deaths due to cancer per 100,000 population, adjusted for the age mix of the population. Death rates are standardized to allow comparisons of regions with differing age structures.

Major Cardiovascular Disease Mortality Rate
The number of deaths due to major cardiovascular disease (as the underlying cause of death) per 100,000 population, adjusted for the age mix of the population. Death rates are standardised to allow comparisons of regions with differing age structures. Data from 1990 to 1999 are based on the ICD-9 Codes 390-434 and 436-448. Data from 2000 forward is based on ICD-10 Codes I00-I78. The estimated comparability ratio is 1.003 with a standard error of 0.0027.

Infant Mortality Rate
Infants who die in the first year of life, expressed as a count and a rate per 1,000 live births.

Potential Years of Life Lost
Potential years of life lost (PYLL) is an indicator of premature mortality. PYLL represents the number of years lost when a person dies 'prematurely'. For the purposes of PYLL calculation, premature death is defined to be any death between the ages of 0 and 74 and is the sum of the differences between the actual age at death and age 75. This method gives greater weight to deaths that occur at younger ages than to those at older ages, and can vary according to gender, socio-economic status, and geographic region. The PYLL Standardized Rate is an age-standardized measure of a population's PYLL, given in terms of a rate per 1,000 population. It is adjusted relative to a standard population (the 1991 Canada population estimate), thus allowing for spatial or temporal comparisons.

Social Condition
A summary of BC's social condition indicators as tracked by the BC Progress Board. It is derived from five performance indicators: low income cut-offs (LICOs), low birth weight rate, personal and property crime rate, income assistance, and long-term unemployment. Social Condition rankings are the simple average of each province's rank on the five indicators.

Low Income Incidence
Low income cut-offs (LICOs) are established using data from the Family Expenditure Survey, now known as the Survey of Household Spending. They convey the income level at which a family may be in straitened circumstances because it has to spend a greater proportion of its income on necessities than the average family of similar size. Specifically, the threshold is defined as the income below which a family is likely to spend 20 percentage points more of its income on food, shelter and clothing than the average family. There are separate cut-offs for seven sizes of family – from unattached individuals to families of seven or more persons – and for five community sizes – from rural areas to urban areas with a population of more than 500,000.

Low income incidence is the ratio (prevalence) of families and unattached individuals in low income (after tax) to the total population of families and unattached individuals.

Low Birth Weight Rate
The low birth weight rate is the number of live births where birth weight was less than 2,500 grams expressed as a percentage of total live births.

Personal and Property Crime

The personal and property crime rate is the number of incidents, based on the most serious offence, known to the police, expressed as a rate per 100,000 population. Personal crime includes those offences in the Criminal Code that deal with the application or threat of application, of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual-assault, robbery and abduction. Excluded are traffic incidents resulting in death or bodily harm. Property crime includes incidents involving unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the threat or use of violence (e.g., theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods).

Income Assistance

Income Assistance is a provincial income- and asset-tested program intended to assist people temporarily while they find work, and to assist those who are unable to fully participate in the workforce. The federal and provincial/territorial governments have developed detailed reporting conventions to identify recipients by type of program. It is agreed by all jurisdictions that the definition of social assistance case or recipient should be restricted to the following income and asset tested programs plus hardship assistance: regular income and asset tested income assistance for those who are employable and/or potentially employable; enhanced income and asset tested income assistance for those who are "unemployable" but not disabled; and, enhanced income and asset tested income assistance for those who are disabled.

Long-Term Unemployment

The proportion of those unemployed (aged 15 and older) that were unemployed for 52 weeks or longer.

Topic Boxes

Effective Tax Rate

Effective tax rates (ETR) presented in this volume employ the user cost of capital approach to compute a summary measure of the distorting effects of taxation on capital accumulation. The user cost of capital is the economic cost of acquiring and holding the last, or marginal, unit of capital. The rates presented in the business tax competitiveness topic box are from a C.D. Howe Institute paper (full reference in the topic box). The authors define their effective tax rate on investments for medium- and large-sized companies as the amount of federal and provincial corporate income, capital and sales taxes on investments as a percentage of profits sufficient to attract equity and bond finance from Canadian and international markets.

Body Mass Index (BMI)

Body mass index (BMI), Canadian standard, which relates weight to height, is a common method of determining if an individual's weight is in a healthy range based on their height. Body mass index (BMI), Canadian standard, is calculated as follows: weight in kilograms divided by height in metres squared. The index is: under 20.0 (underweight), 20.0-24.9 (acceptable weight), 25.0-27.0 (some excess weight) and higher than 27.0 (overweight). It is measured for the population aged 20 to 64 excluding pregnant women and persons less than 3 feet (0.914 metres) tall or greater than 6 feet 11 inches (2.108 metres).

Police Reported Crime Rate

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) collects information only on those crimes that come to the attention of the police. The UCR data, therefore, do not contain a count of all crimes in Canada: some crimes are never detected and, of those that are, some are never brought to the attention of the police. Police Services are the respondents. The response rate in terms of police respondents complying with the UCR Survey is virtually 100 percent. There are approximately 1,200 separate police detachments responding to the survey, comprising about 230 different police forces.

Supplemental Information: US Comparisons

Real Per Capita GDP

The data for this indicator includes nominal Gross State Product (GSP), which is a similar concept to provincial GDP in Canada. The nominal data is converted to real using the implicit GSP price deflator (rebased to 1997 from 1996). The real GSP data is converted to 1997 Canadian dollars using the OECD PPP exchange rate for 1997.
Note: When "GDP" is used below it refers to the "GSP" data described above.
Data Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US Census Bureau.

Real Disposable Income Per Capita

Personal disposable income by state is converted to a 1997 base and then converted to 1997 Canadian dollars using the 1997 OECD PPP exchange rate.
Data Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US Census Bureau.

Employment Rate

This ratio is computed by dividing total employment for an area by its population aged 16 and older.
Data Sources: US Bureau of Labor Statistics; US Census Bureau.

Tax Burden

Per capita tax burden looks at the burden of combined provincial (state) and local taxes distributed on a per person basis. Tax data are from State and Local Government Finances by Level of Government and by State.
Data Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US Census Bureau; OECD.

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate

To arrive at the top marginal personal income tax rate, the peak marginal tax rate at the state level (if there is a state tax) is added to the peak federal marginal tax rate.
Data Sources: US Internal Revenue Service; California Franchise Tax Board; Oregon Department of Revenue; Washington State Department of Revenue.

Surplus/(Deficit)

This indicator is a simple measure of whether a provincial or state government is in a deficit or a surplus position, expressed as a percent of GDP. States essentially have balanced budget requirements, whether the source is constitutional, statutory or traditional interpretation. However, the structure of the Census Bureau data does reflect deficits for some years because it is not based on "funds" as most state accounting systems are and it accounts for all dollars, but only once in the lfetime of the government.
Data Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis; US Census Bureau.

Net Inter-state Migration

Inter-state migration is measured relative to the population of the respective state. A ratio above zero indicates a net addition to the population. A ratio below zero indicates a net decline in the population.
Data Source: US Census Bureau.

Research and Development

Research and development expenditures represent total private and public industrial expenditures on research and development. The indicator is R & D spending as a percent of GDP.
Data Source: US National Science Foundation.

Air Quality
Air quality is defined as the number of particulates under 10 or 2.5 microns per cubic meter of air. Particulate matter is seen as a health hazard since it can settle in the lungs and over time result in cardiovascular disease. Poor air quality is especially a risk to the elderly and those with existing breathing problems.
Data Source: US Environmental Protection Agency.

Low Birth Weight
Newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) are classified as low birth weight infants. The low birth weight rate is calculated as the number of low birth weight infants per 1,000 live births.
Data Source: US Department of Health and Human Services.

Personal and Property Crime
The violent and property crime rate is based on the number of reported crimes per 100,000 people. Personal (violent) crime includes homicide, attempted murder, robbery, assault with a weapon and aggravated assault but leaves out assault level 1 (common assault, the most frequent assault charge) as well as sexual assaults because the Canadian and US data are not comparable for these categories. Property crime includes break and enter, theft of motor vehicle, and theft.
Data Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports.

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Exchange Rate
The PPP exchange rate, which is published by the OECD, measures the average price of all goods and services produced in a country relative the price of goods and services produced in the United States. The goods and services covered are those that make up a country's GDP. The PPP is different from the actual Canada-United States exchange rate, which measures the cost in Canadian dollars of purchasing a United States dollar. The PPP exchange rate is used to remove the effect of differences in the general price level between countries.
Data Source: The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Supplemental Information: International Comparisons

At the price levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)
"At the price levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)" refers to the fact that the data have been converted to 2000 US dollars using the OECD's 2000 purchasing power parity exchange rate for GDP (national currency per US dollar) and the OECD's country-specific, price indices.

Real GDP per capita
Real GDP per capita is referenced as "Gross domestic product, per head at the price levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)" in the OECD database. Gross domestic product is an aggregate measure of production equal to the sum of the gross values added of all resident institutional units engaged in production (plus any taxes, and minus any subsidies, on products not included in the value of their outputs). The sum of the final uses of goods and services (all uses except intermediate consumption) measured in purchasers' prices, less the value of imports of goods and services, or the sum of primary incomes distributed by resident producer units. Further information is available on the OECD website: www.oecd.org.
Data Source: National Accounts, Comparative Tables Based on PPP, The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Employment Rate
Employment rate represents persons in employment as a percentage of the population of working

age (15- 64 years). The population group surveyed for this indicator varies slightly among OECD countries. Canada's definition matches the OECD standard of 15 to 64 years old but several countries report data based on the 16 to 64 year old age group. These countries are: Iceland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. These differences likely have a minimal effect on the analysis in this report, other things being equal.

Data Source: Economic Outlook, The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Exports

Exports of goods and services consist of sales, barter, or gifts or grants, of goods and services from residents to non-residents. The conversion to US dollars is equivalent to the conversion for Real GDP per capita presented above.

Data Source: National Accounts, Volume I – Main Aggregates, The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Gross Fixed Capital Formation

In the OECD National Accounts, gross fixed capital formation is measured by the total value of a producer's acquisitions, less disposals, of fixed assets during the accounting period plus certain additions to the value of non- produced assets (such as subsoil assets or major improvements in the quantity, quality or productivity of land) realized by the productive activity of institutional units.

Note: The data used in the international comparison differ from that presented in the Canadian comparisons (Performance Indicator 9). The OECD calculates this ratio using nominal data while Performance Indicator 9 makes use of real data (i.e., nominal GFCF to nominal GDP in the OECD data and real GFCF to real GDP in the Canadian data). The main reason for using real data in the Canadian comparisons is to remove the differential effects of inflation. Over time, the differential effects of inflation can be a problem if inflation is more prevalent in one series (GFCF in the numerator, for example) than in the other series (GDP in the denominator, for example).

Data Source: Quarterly National Accounts, The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

R&D Expenditures

Research and development expenditure is the money spent on creative work undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge and the use of this knowledge to devise new applications. No adjustments to the BC and Canadian R&D spending data are made other than to update the OECD data. The BC and Canadian GDP figures are adjusted as described above and in Appendix B.

Data Source: Basic Science and Technology Statistics, Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development by Sector of Performance and Source of Funds, The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This indicator measures how many tonnes of greenhouse gases are emitted on a per person basis per year. The gases included are: Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Methane (CH_4), Nitrous Oxide (N_2O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF_6). The United Nations data do not match the Environment Canada data exactly. The difference is small however (0.15%, on average) and is smaller than the average discrepancy between Environment Canada's "sum of provinces" and "Canada" data.

Data Source: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Life Expectancy at Birth

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years a newborn infant can expect to live under current mortality levels. No adjustments were made to the BC or Canadian data.

Data Source: The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Low Birth Weight

The percentage of infants with a birth-weight of less than 2,500 grams. Statistics Canada data for British Columbia and Canada were rounded (to decrease accuracy) to match the data presented by the UN.

Data Source: The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Long-term Unemployment

The proportion of those unemployed (aged 15 and older) that were unemployed for 52 weeks or longer.

Data Source: OECD Factbook, The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

D. Data Tables

Core Targets and Performance Indicators: Economy, Innovation and Education

CT1: Real GDP per capita ($1997)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank
BC	28,614	28,968	29,094	29,816	30,983	30,875	31,697	32,279	33,370	34,173	4
AB	36,129	37,825	38,861	38,678	40,318	40,321	40,408	40,980	42,596	43,598	1
SK	27,537	28,640	29,875	30,018	31,011	30,949	30,951	32,251	33,309	34,504	3
MB	25,289	26,186	27,265	27,574	28,627	28,760	29,101	29,326	29,849	30,552	6
ON	31,023	32,004	33,141	35,201	36,722	36,710	37,212	37,201	37,898	38,536	2
QC	25,192	25,902	26,647	28,193	29,281	29,556	30,062	30,266	30,859	31,322	5
NB	22,134	22,384	23,266	24,717	25,239	25,680	26,832	27,429	28,118	28,236	8
NS	20,967	21,843	22,671	23,864	24,596	25,419	26,380	26,619	26,792	27,276	9
PE	20,545	20,572	21,558	22,392	22,794	22,521	23,551	23,768	24,420	24,874	10
NF	18,590	19,116	20,571	21,963	23,335	23,976	27,858	29,651	29,460	29,765	7
Canada	28,603	29,516	30,471	31,896	33,253	33,484	34,083	34,372	35,158	35,843	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

CT1: Growth Rate of Real GDP per capita (Percent)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	Period Progress Rank
BC	(0.1)	1.2	0.4	2.5	3.9	(0.3)	2.7	1.8	3.4	2.4	2	10
AB	0.5	4.7	2.7	(0.5)	4.2	0.0	0.2	1.4	3.9	2.4	4	9
SK	2.4	4.0	4.3	0.5	3.3	(0.2)	0.0	4.2	3.3	3.6	1	3
MB	2.6	3.5	4.1	1.1	3.8	0.5	1.2	0.8	1.8	2.4	3	7
ON	(0.1)	3.2	3.6	6.2	4.3	(0.0)	1.4	(0.0)	1.9	1.7	7	6
QC	0.6	2.8	2.9	5.8	3.9	0.9	1.7	0.7	2.0	1.5	8	5
NB	0.5	1.1	3.9	6.2	2.1	1.7	4.5	2.2	2.5	0.4	10	4
NS	0.3	4.2	3.8	5.3	3.1	3.3	3.8	0.9	0.7	1.8	6	2
PE	2.0	0.1	4.8	3.9	1.8	(1.2)	4.6	0.9	2.7	1.9	5	8
NF	(3.3)	2.8	7.6	6.8	6.3	2.7	16.2	6.4	(0.6)	1.0	9	1
Canada	0.6	3.2	3.2	4.7	4.3	0.7	1.8	0.8	2.3	1.9	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

CT2: Real Per Capita Personal Disposable Income ($1997)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	18,480	18,484	18,491	18,846	19,459	19,794	19,859	19,960	20,489	20,983	3	2	9
AB	18,865	19,611	20,093	20,253	21,263	22,859	22,683	22,939	24,314	25,473	1	1	1
SK	16,735	15,745	16,260	16,793	17,155	17,201	17,357	18,059	18,995	19,341	6	3	3
MB	17,556	17,194	17,833	17,959	18,346	18,615	18,729	18,873	19,364	19,443	5	9	8
ON	19,308	19,628	20,101	20,560	21,521	21,490	21,482	21,681	21,930	22,094	2	7	7
QC	16,808	16,769	16,995	17,394	18,014	18,453	18,799	19,282	19,566	19,662	4	8	4
NB	15,990	15,991	16,610	17,159	17,423	17,739	17,770	18,084	18,518	18,671	8	6	5
NS	16,210	16,480	17,064	17,562	17,772	18,101	18,232	18,245	18,480	18,711	7	5	6
PE	15,465	15,561	15,867	16,412	16,935	16,917	17,476	17,224	17,734	17,579	10	10	10
NF	14,514	14,426	14,922	15,383	15,839	16,538	16,894	17,353	17,539	17,827	9	4	2
Canada	18,114	18,262	18,636	19,039	19,810	20,142	20,258	20,531	20,968	21,276	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

CT3: Employment Rate (employment to population ratio, 15 to 64 year olds)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	69.6	69.7	68.6	69.4	70.1	68.9	69.3	70.2	71.0	72.0	5	1	10
AB	75.0	75.7	76.5	76.4	76.6	77.2	77.3	77.9	78.2	78.0	1	7	7
SK	72.0	73.4	74.0	74.2	74.5	73.2	74.7	75.7	75.8	75.9	3	4	8
MB	72.8	73.6	74.6	75.1	75.9	75.9	77.2	76.7	76.7	76.4	2	9	9
ON	68.8	69.5	70.7	72.1	73.1	72.9	72.6	73.5	73.6	73.3	4	10	6
QC	62.7	63.2	64.7	66.0	67.2	67.3	69.3	69.8	70.2	70.1	7	5	4
NB	60.3	60.9	62.0	63.9	64.8	64.5	66.7	66.4	67.6	67.6	9	6	3
NS	61.0	61.5	63.6	64.7	65.5	65.9	66.6	67.6	69.0	68.7	8	8	2
PE	65.6	65.1	66.1	66.1	68.6	68.9	69.5	70.6	70.7	71.2	6	2	5
NF	48.0	48.9	50.7	53.5	53.0	55.2	56.2	57.3	57.8	57.9	10	3	1
Canada	67.3	68.0	68.9	70.0	70.9	70.8	71.4	72.2	72.5	72.5	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI1: Real Average Hourly Earnings ($1997)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	16.50	16.52	16.38	15.99	16.29	16.24	16.02	15.70	15.93	15.85	2	9	9
AB	14.87	15.07	15.69	16.10	15.73	15.57	15.40	14.99	15.35	15.64	3	2	2
SK	14.04	14.36	14.40	14.37	14.33	14.06	13.95	13.81	14.04	14.37	6	1	6
MB	14.06	13.92	13.98	14.07	14.06	13.87	13.95	13.78	14.09	14.06	7	8	8
ON	16.43	16.09	16.27	16.39	16.35	16.20	16.15	15.94	16.18	16.02	1	10	7
QC	15.49	15.41	15.00	14.75	14.82	14.78	14.76	14.32	14.49	14.47	5	6	10
NB	13.57	13.54	13.88	13.85	13.96	13.76	13.75	13.73	13.85	13.99	8	4	4
NS	13.23	13.34	13.82	13.93	14.15	14.06	13.88	13.51	13.75	13.78	9	5	3
PE	12.34	12.08	12.42	12.57	12.17	12.06	12.22	11.81	12.16	12.14	10	7	5
NF	13.73	13.54	14.17	14.42	14.36	14.49	14.61	14.52	14.81	14.99	4	3	1
Canada	15.70	15.58	15.62	15.62	15.63	15.51	15.45	15.14	15.37	15.36	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI2: Labour Productivity - Real GDP Per Hour Worked in the Business Sector ($1997 Per Hour)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	28.1	28.7	29.2	29.5	30.4	31.3	32.0	31.9	31.8	32.2	5	6	7
AB	33.5	35.2	35.9	35.8	36.9	35.8	36.2	36.6	36.7	38.0	1	1	9
SK	27.1	28.3	29.6	29.8	30.6	30.9	30.6	31.9	32.5	33.5	4	3	2
MB	24.4	25.5	26.6	26.8	27.7	28.0	28.5	28.7	29.1	30.1	7	2	3
ON	30.2	30.8	31.4	33.2	34.6	34.5	35.2	35.2	35.3	36.2	2	4	5
QC	29.0	30.4	30.6	31.0	31.9	32.4	32.2	32.9	32.9	33.6	3	5	4
NB	23.1	23.4	23.9	24.8	25.0	25.8	25.9	26.6	26.8	25.5	8	9	8
NS	21.4	22.1	22.4	23.5	24.1	24.8	25.4	25.3	25.4	25.2	9	7	6
PE	19.4	19.5	20.6	21.0	20.4	20.1	21.2	21.5	22.2	21.2	10	8	10
NF	24.3	24.3	25.3	25.3	28.0	27.1	33.7	35.5	34.1	32.0	6	10	1
Canada	29.1	30.1	30.7	31.6	32.8	33.0	33.4	33.8	33.9	34.7	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI3: Exports of Goods and Services (International & Interprovincial) Per Capita, $1997 Chained

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	12,336	12,585	12,827	13,854	14,940	14,533	14,583	14,861	15,603	15,847	8	6	9
AB	21,363	22,248	23,080	23,337	24,982	24,657	24,417	24,165	25,161	24,877	2	10	10
SK	16,533	18,889	19,505	19,831	21,255	21,802	21,309	20,944	22,923	23,485	3	2	4
MB	13,874	15,595	16,809	17,184	17,984	18,366	18,294	18,138	19,056	19,366	5	5	6
ON	20,357	21,602	22,906	25,187	26,742	25,483	25,435	24,990	25,986	26,118	1	7	8
QC	13,125	14,177	15,036	16,696	18,415	17,953	17,893	17,356	17,368	17,798	6	1	7
NB	14,575	15,022	15,863	16,820	17,332	19,382	20,062	20,449	20,798	21,169	4	4	5
NS	9,311	10,050	10,368	10,930	11,961	12,526	13,248	13,112	13,348	13,384	10	8	2
PE	9,193	10,146	11,552	12,502	12,983	12,782	12,802	13,151	13,505	13,780	9	3	3
NF	7,490	8,120	9,638	10,637	12,035	11,891	15,826	17,378	16,682	16,556	7	9	1
Canada	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI4: Taxpayer Supported Debt as a Percent of GDP

	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2005 /06	2005/06 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.8	19.1	20.6	21.3	20.6	18.2	16.2	2	2	8
AB	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.3	5.7	3.5	3.1	2.2	0.0	0.0	1	9	1
SK	n/a	n/a	n/a	26.2	23.3	24.2	24.3	23.4	20.3	19.2	4	3	2
MB	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.6	21.7	20.7	19.9	19.6	19.1	18.4	3	7	3
ON	n/a	n/a	n/a	32.9	30.1	29.1	24.8	25.2	24.3	20.3	5	1	4
QC	n/a	n/a	n/a	29.8	29.2	29.8	30.2	30.5	30.5	30.7	7	10	10
NB	n/a	n/a	n/a	36.4	33.8	31.9	31.7	31.2	29.1	28.2	6	8	5
NS	n/a	n/a	n/a	48.7	46.1	46.8	45.1	42.8	41.2	39.3	9	5	7
PE	n/a	n/a	n/a	32.4	30.7	30.7	31.8	34.5	33.0	31.7	8	6	6
NF	n/a	n/a	n/a	44.8	42.2	44.1	51.3	51.1	50.2	47.8	10	4	9
Canada	n/a	n/a	n/a	27.9	25.3	24.8	23.4	23.1	21.7	19.5	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; TD Economics; Finance Canada Note: Alberta's 1-Year Progress Check is meaningless since they have no debt; the rank is left as is to keep the ranking out of ten.

PI5: Per Capita Tax Burden, Consolidated Provincial and Local Government (dollars)													
	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2005 /06	2005/06 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	4,905	4,862	4,833	4,994	5,182	5,142	4,837	5,244	5,567	5,866	6	7	1
AB	4,223	4,567	4,706	4,672	4,760	4,998	5,187	5,208	5,565	5,543	5	1	3
SK	4,643	5,095	5,131	4,972	6,080	5,319	5,829	5,947	6,443	6,825	8	8	7
MB	4,445	4,574	5,012	4,931	5,277	5,112	5,126	5,386	5,707	5,889	7	2	4
ON	5,535	5,729	5,818	6,133	6,338	6,225	6,165	6,202	6,788	7,045	9	3	2
QC	5,567	5,828	6,309	6,598	6,997	6,847	6,968	7,313	7,607	7,981	10	5	6
NB	3,818	3,605	3,515	3,818	4,024	4,143	4,374	4,626	4,807	5,063	1	6	5
NS	3,546	3,585	3,719	4,036	4,266	4,481	4,731	5,067	5,301	5,511	3	4	10
PE	3,396	3,460	3,527	3,852	3,964	4,119	4,418	4,508	4,758	5,073	2	9	8
NF	3,599	3,352	3,517	3,821	3,969	4,090	4,555	4,828	5,126	5,530	4	10	9
Canada	5,105	5,283	5,464	5,687	5,964	5,898	5,916	6,086	6,513	6,776	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada													

PI6: Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rates (Percent)													
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	54.20	54.20	52.30	51.30	45.70	43.70	43.70	43.70	43.70	43.70	2	1	1
AB	46.10	45.60	45.20	43.70	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	1	1	3
SK	52.00	51.60	50.80	49.70	45.00	44.50	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	3	1	2
MB	50.40	50.10	49.00	48.10	46.40	46.40	46.40	46.40	46.40	46.40	4	1	8
ON	51.60	50.30	48.80	47.90	46.41	46.41	46.41	46.41	46.41	46.41	5	1	4
QC	52.90	52.60	52.20	50.70	48.72	48.22	48.22	48.22	48.22	48.22	8	1	6
NB	51.10	50.40	49.70	48.80	46.84	46.84	46.84	46.84	46.84	46.84	6	1	5
NS	50.00	49.70	49.20	48.80	47.34	47.34	47.34	47.34	48.25	48.25	9	1	10
PE	50.30	50.30	49.60	48.80	47.37	47.37	47.37	47.37	47.37	47.37	7	1	9
NF	53.30	53.30	52.90	51.30	48.64	48.64	48.64	48.64	48.64	48.64	10	1	7
Sources: BC Ministry of Finance; KPMG													

PI7: Provincial Surplus/(Deficit) as a Percent of GDP

	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2005 /06	2005/06 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	(0.7)	(0.1)	(0.9)	0.1	1.1	(0.9)	(2.0)	(0.8)	1.7	1.8	2	6	5
AB	2.5	2.5	1.0	2.4	4.5	0.7	1.4	2.4	2.9	4.1	1	2	1
SK	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.9	4	7	7
MB	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.1	7	10	9
ON	(2.0)	(1.1)	(0.5)	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	(1.1)	(0.3)	0.1	8	4	2
QC	(1.8)	(1.1)	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	(0.3)	(0.1)	(0.3)	0.0	9	5	3
NB	0.4	0.0	(1.2)	(0.2)	0.2	0.4	0.0	(0.8)	1.1	1.0	3	8	8
NS	(0.6)	(2.2)	(1.2)	(3.5)	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.5	5	9	6
PE	(0.1)	(0.3)	0.2	(0.2)	(0.4)	(0.5)	(1.5)	(3.3)	(0.8)	(0.4)	10	3	10
NF	(1.0)	1.3	(1.7)	(2.2)	(2.5)	(3.3)	(3.9)	(5.0)	(2.5)	0.4	6	1	4
Average	(1.0)	(0.4)	(0.3)	0.3	1.0	0.0	(0.2)	(0.3)	0.5	1.0	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; Finance Canada

PI8: Net Interprovincial Migration per 1,000 Population

	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2005 /06	2005/06 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	2.6	(2.5)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(2.1)	(2.1)	(0.3)	1.9	2.0	0.9	2	7	8
AB	9.5	15.2	8.7	7.7	6.8	8.6	3.8	3.4	10.7	17.4	1	1	1
SK	(2.7)	(1.9)	(4.3)	(7.8)	(8.3)	(8.8)	(5.2)	(4.5)	(9.6)	(9.2)	10	2	10
MB	(5.2)	(4.6)	(1.9)	(3.0)	(3.8)	(3.8)	(2.5)	(2.2)	(6.2)	(7.4)	8	8	6
ON	0.2	0.8	1.5	1.9	1.6	0.5	0.1	(0.6)	(0.9)	(1.7)	5	5	4
QC	(2.4)	(2.3)	(1.8)	(1.7)	(1.3)	(0.6)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.7)	(1.1)	4	4	3
NB	(1.7)	(4.2)	(1.7)	(1.6)	(2.0)	(1.6)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(2.8)	(5.0)	7	10	7
NS	(1.8)	(2.8)	0.2	(0.3)	(2.2)	(1.0)	0.5	(0.8)	(3.2)	(4.2)	6	6	5
PE	1.0	(3.1)	1.4	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.2	1.0	(1.0)	(0.9)	3	3	9
NF	(14.5)	(17.2)	(10.5)	(8.0)	(8.5)	(6.4)	(3.2)	(3.9)	(7.2)	(8.5)	9	9	2
Average	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI9: Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	16.8	18.6	16.9	16.5	16.2	17.4	17.2	18.4	19.5	20.2	3	5	8
AB	21.8	26.6	27.9	26.2	28.8	30.8	29.6	31.1	32.6	36.4	1	1	1
SK	19.1	24.9	20.6	20.8	20.2	19.6	18.5	19.8	19.1	19.6	4	6	7
MB	14.1	16.0	15.4	15.6	14.9	15.3	15.4	15.7	16.6	17.3	9	3	5
ON	13.9	15.7	15.5	15.9	15.5	15.4	15.1	15.5	15.7	16.1	10	7	6
QC	13.6	14.3	14.7	15.2	15.1	14.7	15.4	16.4	18.0	17.7	8	10	4
NB	13.4	12.9	14.8	17.9	18.1	15.0	14.9	16.8	17.4	18.7	6	2	3
NS	13.5	17.6	18.7	22.3	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.6	18.5	19.2	5	4	2
PE	18.0	13.3	13.3	15.5	16.4	16.2	15.6	16.9	18.8	18.6	7	9	9
NF	20.7	24.1	21.9	26.8	22.4	21.7	18.3	20.3	23.8	23.9	2	8	10
Canada	15.5	17.5	17.3	17.4	17.4	17.6	17.3	18.1	19.0	19.8	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI9 (SI): Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation (excluding residential structures) as a Percent of GDP

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	9.3	11.0	10.4	10.6	10.6	11.3	10.4	10.9	11.3	11.8	7	5	7
AB	17.8	21.9	23.1	21.6	24.3	26.0	24.1	25.7	27.4	30.9	1	1	2
SK	16.2	21.9	17.6	17.9	17.3	16.6	15.3	16.3	15.6	15.9	3	7	8
MB	10.1	12.5	12.0	12.4	11.8	11.9	11.7	11.7	12.3	12.9	4	4	4
ON	9.6	10.9	11.0	11.2	10.8	10.3	9.7	10.0	10.2	10.6	10	6	6
QC	8.9	10.0	10.6	11.2	11.2	10.2	10.0	10.6	11.6	11.5	8	10	5
NB	9.5	8.8	11.0	14.1	13.6	10.1	9.6	11.0	11.6	12.7	6	2	3
NS	8.4	12.6	14.5	17.6	13.6	13.5	13.4	12.7	12.2	12.9	5	3	1
PE	13.2	8.2	8.8	10.6	10.4	10.2	9.6	10.4	11.5	11.5	9	8	9
NF	16.5	19.4	17.4	22.4	17.9	16.7	13.3	15.1	18.1	18.1	2	9	10
Canada	10.7	12.6	12.8	12.9	12.9	12.7	11.9	12.5	13.2	13.9	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI10: Secondary School Graduates (per 1,000 population aged 18 years)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	662	676	675	693	709	727	718	726	737	714	8	8	2
AB	652	645	641	613	610	640	641	646	666	678	10	3	5
SK	735	712	751	702	716	750	724	714	718	696	9	7	9
MB	763	754	765	758	738	828	772	746	793	822	2	1	3
ON	754	740	756	752	757	739	719	762	853	734	7	10	8
QC	876	912	853	883	898	926	932	919	923	952	1	2	1
NB	829	845	850	827	838	861	824	825	802	787	5	6	10
NS	750	742	799	809	805	802	807	788	806	811	3	4	4
PE	806	808	788	881	815	879	847	829	828	798	4	9	7
NF	758	802	789	852	823	837	748	758	777	767	6	5	6
Average	764	768	762	752	754	781	765	778	819	777	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI11: Percent of Population (ages 25 to 54) with University Completion

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	19.0	18.8	19.8	20.3	21.0	20.3	21.7	23.2	22.7	24.5	2	2	1
AB	17.9	18.6	18.3	18.8	18.7	20.8	20.7	20.7	20.4	23.9	3	1	4
SK	14.9	14.9	15.5	16.1	16.4	16.1	17.2	17.4	17.9	18.5	7	6	3
MB	16.7	17.2	17.8	18.2	18.8	19.6	19.3	19.9	20.1	20.2	5	8	8
ON	20.6	21.3	21.5	22.6	24.0	24.5	25.3	26.2	26.8	27.2	1	7	5
QC	17.2	18.2	18.8	19.3	19.8	20.8	20.5	21.6	21.8	23.3	4	3	2
NB	13.6	13.7	14.6	15.2	15.0	15.5	15.8	15.9	16.6	17.3	9	5	6
NS	16.6	16.3	18.1	18.1	18.8	19.8	20.4	21.9	21.2	19.9	6	10	7
PE	14.1	15.0	14.9	15.6	14.2	16.5	16.2	18.2	17.6	17.4	8	9	10
NF	10.0	11.8	11.9	11.7	12.1	13.0	13.6	13.5	13.3	13.9	10	4	9
Average	18.4	19.1	19.5	20.2	21.0	21.7	22.2	23.1	23.3	24.4	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI12: Gross Expenditures on R&D as a Percent of GDP

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	1.01	0.92	0.91	0.96	1.07	1.23	1.33	1.42	1.40	1.45	4	3	2
AB	1.06	1.02	0.98	1.10	0.99	0.92	1.06	1.15	1.08	1.09	6	5	9
SK	0.96	0.81	0.98	0.94	1.05	1.11	1.20	1.26	1.08	1.05	7	7	6
MB	1.09	1.04	0.90	0.97	1.20	1.21	1.35	1.27	1.22	1.30	5	1	7
ON	2.10	2.05	2.09	2.18	2.17	2.36	2.59	2.39	2.40	2.44	2	4	5
QC	2.10	2.12	2.10	2.22	2.33	2.54	2.77	2.79	2.77	2.74	1	6	3
NB	0.85	0.90	0.75	0.88	0.87	0.80	0.80	1.02	0.97	0.95	9	8	4
NS	1.37	1.32	1.26	1.45	1.48	1.47	1.46	1.49	1.42	1.49	3	2	8
PE	0.60	0.60	0.61	0.81	0.82	1.07	1.08	0.84	1.16	0.99	8	10	1
NF	0.94	0.99	0.98	1.06	1.04	0.99	1.01	0.93	0.92	0.87	10	9	10
Average	1.70	1.65	1.66	1.76	1.80	1.91	2.09	2.04	2.01	2.01	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI13: Natural and Applied Sciences & Related Occupations as a Percent of Total Employment

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	5.4	5.5	5.8	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.3	5.8	6.4	4	3	7
AB	5.9	6.6	6.8	7.0	6.8	7.1	7.7	6.9	7.2	7.6	1	6	4
SK	3.3	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.6	4.1	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.3	10	4	5
MB	4.3	4.6	4.7	5.0	5.3	5.0	4.8	5.0	5.3	4.9	9	10	10
ON	5.7	6.2	6.5	7.1	7.3	7.7	7.4	7.2	6.9	7.3	2	5	8
QC	5.3	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.4	6.8	6.6	7.0	6.8	3	9	6
NB	4.6	4.6	4.6	5.3	5.1	5.6	5.3	5.5	5.9	5.9	6	7	3
NS	4.9	4.4	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.6	7	8	9
PE	4.6	3.9	4.7	5.0	4.1	5.0	5.3	5.0	4.8	5.6	8	2	1
NF	4.4	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.1	6.0	6.3	6.0	5.2	6.3	5	1	2
Average	5.4	5.9	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.9	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

Core Targets and Performance Indicators: Environment, Health & Society

CT4: Environmental Quality, Rank by Province

	Air Quality	GHG Per Capita	Protected Areas	Environmental Quality
	2004	2004	2003	2004
BC	5	2	1	1
AB	6	10	2	6
SK	3	9	7	8
MB	1	5	4	2
ON	7	3	3	4
QC	n/a	1	7	3
NB	3	8	9	9
NS	n/a	7	5	6
PE	n/a	4	10	10
NF	1	6	6	4

CT5: Health Outcomes, Component Ranks by Province

	Life Expectancy	Cancer Mortality	Major Cardiovascular Disease Mortality	Infant Mortality	PYLL	Health Outcomes
Year	2004/05	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003
BC	1	1	2	2	2	1
AB	4	2	6	9	8	5
SK	6	3	5	8	9	6
MB	8	5	4	10	10	8
ON	3	4	3	6	1	3
QC	2	6	1	3	3	2
NB	5	7	8	1	4	4
NS	7	9	7	7	5	7
PE	9	10	9	4	7	9
NF	10	8	10	5	6	9

Source: BC Progress Board

CT6: Social Condition, Component Ranks by Province, 2004

	LICO	Low Birth Weight Rate	Personal and Property Crime	Income Assistance	Long-Term Unemployment	Social Condition Index
Year	2004	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
BC	10	5	9	2	9	9
AB	5	10	7	1	2	3
SK	3	2	10	5	5	3
MB	7	3	8	4	4	5
ON	4	9	2	6	7	6
QC	9	7	4	9	10	10
NB	2	4	3	8	3	2
NS	5	8	6	7	6	7
PE	1	1	5	3	1	1
NF	8	6	1	10	8	8

Source: BC Progress Board

PI14: Air Quality - Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentrations (micrograms per cubic metre)

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Vancouver				15	15	14	14	14	13	14
Edmonton	24	24	24	26	21	20	24	31	28	25
Regina	20	21	17	19	17	18	22	24	20	20
Winnipeg				24	24	22	22	22	21	19
Toronto							19	20	20	18
Montreal							25	26	23	22
Saint John			14			15	18	20	29	19
Charlottetown							9		14	12

PI14: Air Quality - Annual Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Concentrations (micrograms per cubic metre)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 rank
Vancouver	5.4	5.8	5.9	5.5	5
Calgary	6.3	6.2	7.8	6.0	6
Regina	8.2	7.6	7.3	5.0	3
Winnipeg	5.5	6.2	5.3	4.0	1
Toronto	n/a	n/a	8.8	7.0	7
Montreal	9.7	9.8	10.7	n/a	n/a
Saint John	8.3	6.4	6.2	5.0	3
Sydney	5.0	5.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
St John's	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.0	1

Sources: BC Ministry Environment; Environment Canada

PI15: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Tonnes per capita)													
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	15.8	15.9	15.3	15.2	15.6	15.8	15.5	15.0	15.4	15.9	2	8	1
AB	72.0	72.8	72.4	71.0	72.1	73.9	73.0	71.2	72.8	73.3	10	5	2
SK	56.2	57.6	60.1	60.4	61.1	63.2	63.5	65.0	66.9	69.5	9	9	8
MB	16.8	17.4	17.0	17.2	17.1	17.6	16.4	16.9	16.7	17.1	5	7	3
ON	16.1	16.6	16.8	16.6	16.8	17.4	16.4	16.6	17.0	16.3	3	2	4
QC	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.9	11.8	11.9	11.6	11.9	12.4	12.2	1	3	5
NB	23.2	22.9	25.9	27.2	26.0	27.6	30.8	29.2	28.6	32.0	8	10	9
NS	20.8	20.8	21.3	21.5	21.8	23.0	22.2	21.5	24.1	24.5	7	6	7
PE	15.0	15.8	16.0	15.8	15.7	16.8	15.9	16.1	16.7	16.8	4	4	6
NF	15.5	15.8	17.0	21.9	17.7	17.3	19.1	23.1	21.8	20.3	6	1	10
Canada	22.1	22.5	22.7	22.7	23.0	23.6	23.2	23.1	23.8	23.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Source: Environment Canada													

PI16: Protected Areas (Percent of Land Base)					
	2000	2001	2002	2003*	2003 Rank
BC	11.4	13.0	12.5	13.0	1
AB	10.0	12.5	12.4	12.3	2
SK	6.0	6.4	8.8	3.5	7
MB	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.5	4
ON	8.7	8.9	9.0	9.2	3
QC	4.3	n/a	4.8	3.5	7
NB	3.2	3.2	n/a	3.1	9
NS	8.3	n/a	n/a	8.2	5
PE	4.2	4.2	n/a	2.6	10
NF	4.3	n/a	n/a	4.3	6
Canada	6.9	n/a	n/a	8.4	n/a
Sources: BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; WWF Canada					
Note: *Compiled using a different methodology from previous years					

PI17: Life Expectancy at Birth, Both Sexes, Years

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2004/05 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	78.6	78.8	79.1	79.4	79.9	80.2	80.4	80.6	80.8	80.9	1	2	2
AB	78.4	78.5	78.6	78.9	79.2	79.3	79.4	79.5	79.5	79.5	4	3	6
SK	78.2	78.2	78.2	78.3	78.4	78.5	78.9	79.0	78.8	78.8	6	4	10
MB	77.6	77.7	77.9	77.9	77.8	78.0	78.3	78.4	78.3	78.3	8	5	8
ON	78.3	78.5	78.7	79.0	79.2	79.4	79.8	79.9	79.9	79.9	3	6	3
QC	77.7	77.8	77.9	78.1	78.6	79.0	79.2	79.5	79.7	80.0	2	1	1
NB	77.8	77.8	77.8	77.9	78.2	78.7	79.0	79.1	79.1	79.0	5	7	4
NS	77.3	77.5	77.5	78.0	78.4	78.6	78.8	78.9	78.8	78.7	7	9	5
PE	77.4	77.5	77.9	78.3	78.4	78.1	78.3	78.5	78.2	78.0	9	10	9
NF	77.0	77.0	76.8	77.2	77.5	77.4	77.8	78.1	78.0	77.9	10	8	7
Canada	78.1	78.2	78.4	78.7	79.0	79.2	79.5	79.6	79.7	79.8	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI18: Age Standardized Mortality Rate Per 100,000 Population - All Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000*	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	173	168	169	168	165	163	158	158	159	156	1	4	2
AB	170	174	177	168	166	169	170	164	165	166	2	8	6
SK	176	172	173	167	175	173	172	170	176	171	3	3	9
MB	186	192	187	183	191	185	188	180	178	176	5	5	4
ON	189	186	184	174	177	178	177	176	174	173	4	6	3
QC	209	206	210	204	205	201	196	197	195	188	6	2	1
NB	197	202	195	193	200	184	188	186	181	190	7	9	7
NS	214	207	212	209	208	206	204	196	199	201	9	7	5
PE	209	200	209	172	191	196	193	159	177	203	10	10	10
NF	199	192	192	195	195	202	201	201	198	191	8	1	8
Canada	191	188	188	182	184	182	180	179	178	176	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI19: Age Standardized Mortality Rate Per 100,000 Population - Major Cardiovascular Disease

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000*	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	231	226	227	214	212	206	189	183	180	175	2	8	4
AB	258	247	251	247	235	233	221	215	213	202	6	3	9
SK	245	242	238	231	233	230	220	205	201	195	5	7	8
MB	265	274	258	248	248	238	231	211	204	191	4	2	2
ON	261	254	251	236	234	227	214	201	195	189	3	6	3
QC	258	257	244	249	232	220	193	183	176	167	1	4	1
NB	281	267	255	252	253	243	222	213	207	205	8	9	5
NS	283	269	253	261	245	226	225	211	203	204	7	10	6
PE	266	283	303	215	264	242	270	251	260	219	9	1	10
NF	324	313	309	337	311	293	286	263	256	244	10	5	7
Canada	258	253	247	240	233	225	209	198	192	185	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada Note: *break in data

PI20: Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	6.3	6.0	5.1	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.7	4.1	4.6	4.2	2	2	3
AB	7.4	7.0	6.2	4.8	4.8	5.8	6.6	5.6	7.3	6.6	9	1	8
SK	8.9	9.1	8.4	8.9	7.1	6.3	6.8	5.5	5.7	6.3	8	6	5
MB	7.0	7.6	6.7	7.5	6.7	8.4	6.5	7.0	7.1	8.0	10	8	9
ON	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.3	6	4	6
QC	5.6	5.5	4.6	5.6	5.6	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.4	3	3	4
NB	5.3	4.8	4.9	5.7	6.5	5.0	3.5	4.3	3.8	4.1	1	5	1
NS	6.0	4.8	5.6	4.4	4.6	4.0	4.9	5.6	4.2	5.7	7	9	7
PE	6.4	4.6	4.7	4.4	8.0	6.6	3.5	7.2	1.5	4.9	4	10	10
NF	8.2	7.9	6.6	5.2	6.2	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.5	5.0	5	7	2
Canada	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.3	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI21: Potential Years of Life Lost (PYLL) Rates

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	63	61	59	56	54	51	48	48	49	49	2	1	1
AB	63	61	59	57	56	56	55	55	55	56	8	8	8
SK	65	67	65	64	64	62	61	59	60	61	9	10	10
MB	67	66	64	64	63	65	64	62	60	61	10	5	9
ON	59	57	54	52	50	50	49	48	47	49	1	9	4
QC	64	63	61	59	58	56	54	52	51	52	3	2	3
NB	62	60	60	60	59	57	54	52	51	52	4	4	2
NS	62	62	61	59	57	55	54	52	52	53	5	6	6
PE	66	62	59	59	59	58	59	58	55	55	7	3	7
NF	64	62	61	60	56	56	58	55	53	54	6	7	5
Canada	62	61	59	57	55	54	52	51	51	52	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI22: Prevalence (%) of Families & Unattached Individuals below the After-Tax Low Income Cut-Offs

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	18.3	21.5	22.2	20.2	20.8	19.7	19.1	20.0	19.0	18.0	10	5	8
AB	17.6	19.2	19.6	18.0	16.3	15.0	13.5	13.5	15.1	14.3	5	4	4
SK	15.5	16.4	15.5	15.6	14.0	14.5	13.4	12.4	12.7	13.8	3	10	6
MB	19.3	19.9	20.0	18.1	18.3	17.2	14.8	15.2	15.5	15.0	7	7	3
ON	16.5	18.0	17.0	15.3	15.1	14.5	13.1	14.1	14.0	14.2	4	9	9
QC	22.9	24.4	24.8	22.2	20.5	20.1	18.7	17.1	17.0	16.0	9	3	1
NB	14.9	15.6	17.0	15.2	13.5	13.0	12.8	13.2	12.7	11.9	2	2	2
NS	17.7	17.9	17.8	18.4	16.2	15.8	14.1	13.6	14.7	14.3	5	8	5
PE	11.9	13.0	14.7	12.8	14.7	13.4	11.1	11.2	10.8	10.0	1	1	10
NF	19.6	18.0	16.8	17.0	17.8	16.1	14.4	15.6	16.4	15.7	8	6	7
Canada	18.6	20.2	20.0	18.2	17.5	16.8	15.5	15.5	15.6	15.2	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI23: Low Birth Weight - Percent of Live Births with Weight Less than 2,500 Grams (excluding not stated)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.6	5	8	9
AB	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.4	10	3	10
SK	5.6	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.6	5.6	2	2	6
MB	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.6	3	4	5
ON	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.9	6.1	5.9	9	1	2
QC	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7	5	3
NB	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.5	4.7	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.6	4	9	4
NS	6.0	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.9	8	7	7
PE	4.6	5.3	5.1	4.9	5.3	4.3	4.0	5.3	4.2	5.5	1	10	8
NF	5.5	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.0	5.6	5.8	6	6	1
Canada	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.9	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI24: Personal and Property Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	10,106	9,179	8,583	8,088	7,685	7,714	7,755	8,170	7,940	7,443	9	6	2
AB	6,118	6,134	6,065	5,865	5,506	5,515	5,752	6,226	6,160	5,932	7	8	7
SK	7,649	7,800	7,733	7,438	7,657	7,799	7,648	8,675	8,240	7,498	10	3	10
MB	7,464	7,192	6,776	6,662	6,617	6,750	6,602	7,220	7,299	6,613	8	2	5
ON	5,724	5,177	4,772	4,429	4,263	4,142	4,063	3,981	3,710	3,551	2	7	1
QC	5,254	4,988	4,747	4,402	4,377	4,217	4,056	4,029	3,931	3,872	4	10	3
NB	4,271	3,932	3,969	3,963	3,894	3,837	3,829	4,025	3,935	3,559	3	1	4
NS	5,203	5,186	5,056	5,052	4,603	4,502	4,496	4,857	5,105	4,773	6	5	6
PE	4,387	3,933	3,491	3,846	3,790	3,775	4,189	4,529	4,323	4,228	5	9	9
NF	3,743	3,584	3,586	3,378	3,381	3,258	3,409	3,557	3,674	3,417	1	4	8
Canada	6,276	5,872	5,552	5,235	5,068	4,988	4,943	5,086	4,915	4,676	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI25: Income Assistance Recipients Per 1,000 Population

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	9.8	9.4	8.0	7.4	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.8	4.2	3.8	2	1	1
AB	4.8	4.5	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9	1	10	4
SK	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.1	6.6	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.2	5	6	8
MB	7.5	7.6	7.0	6.4	6.0	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	4	9	9
ON	12.3	11.0	10.2	9.6	7.9	6.9	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.4	6	8	2
QC	11.1	11.2	10.9	9.9	9.0	8.4	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.1	9	5	7
NB	9.0	8.9	9.4	8.9	8.2	7.5	7.1	6.8	6.6	6.3	8	3	6
NS	11.2	11.1	10.0	9.2	8.7	7.9	7.2	6.6	6.2	6.0	7	4	5
PE	9.2	8.6	8.2	8.0	7.2	6.2	5.8	5.5	5.1	4.8*	3	2	3
NF	12.6	12.9	13.0	12.0	11.2	11.3	10.4	10.0	9.9	9.6	10	7	10
Canada	10.5	10.0	9.3	8.6	7.6	6.9	6.2	6.0	5.6	5.4*	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: Human Resources Development Canada; BC Employment and Income Assistance; Alberta Human Resources and Employment; BC Stats; Statistics Canada. Note: *2004 Prince Edward Island and Northwest Territory (and therefore Canada) figures for 2004 are estimated.

PI26: Long-Term Unemployment Rate (Ages 15+)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	12.1	14.3	10.9	12.4	10.2	10.0	10.8	12.5	8.9	10.4	9	10	10
AB	8.5	8.4	4.3	4.3	5.2	3.1	3.3	3.1	4.6	4.7	2	7	7
SK	12.5	9.8	7.9	7.9	7.4	6.4	8.5	6.4	7.4	6.6	5	3	8
MB	13.1	11.2	8.2	6.8	5.6	4.7	4.2	5.3	7.1	6.5	4	4	4
ON	17.2	15.5	12.6	10.4	9.0	7.2	7.9	8.8	9.0	8.9	7	5	2
QC	19.9	19.3	18.6	14.9	15.8	13.0	12.9	12.1	11.3	11.3	10	6	3
NB	11.0	10.0	10.5	7.6	6.3	7.2	7.2	6.1	6.8	5.6	3	2	6
NS	14.7	14.1	13.3	8.9	9.7	8.5	6.9	6.2	7.9	6.6	6	1	5
PE	6.9	3.7	4.2	4.0	3.5	2.3	2.3	1.2	3.5	3.6	1	8	9
NF	22.2	21.1	15.8	12.9	12.1	11.8	10.1	11.0	8.8	9.6	8	9	1
Canada	16.4	15.6	13.3	11.2	10.7	9.1	9.2	9.6	9.1	9.2	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

Supplemental Information: US Comparisons

CT1 (SI): Real GDP Per Capita ($1997 Canadian)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank
QC	25,192	25,902	26,647	28,193	29,281	29,556	30,062	30,266	30,859	31,322	7
ON	31,023	32,004	33,141	35,201	36,722	36,710	37,212	37,201	37,898	38,536	5
AB	36,129	37,825	38,861	38,678	40,318	40,321	40,408	40,980	42,596	43,598	3
BC	28,614	28,968	29,094	29,816	30,983	30,875	31,697	32,279	33,370	34,173	6
CA*	37,054	37,831	39,585	42,071	44,583	43,722	43,718	44,516	46,307	47,950	1
OR*	33,054	35,250	36,667	37,471	39,940	38,777	39,792	39,989	43,467	45,731	2
WA*	35,463	37,896	40,404	42,878	42,842	41,924	41,587	41,767	42,410	43,419	4

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis Note: *shaded sections are SIC based data, 1997 onwards are NAICS based, comparisons between pre and post 1997 data should be avoided

CT1 (SI): Growth in Real GDP Per Capita (Percent)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	Period Progress Rank
QC	0.6	2.8	2.9	5.8	3.9	0.9	1.7	0.7	2.0	1.5	7	n/a
ON	(0.1)	3.2	3.6	6.2	4.3	(0.0)	1.4	(0.0)	1.9	1.7	6	n/a
AB	0.5	4.7	2.7	(0.5)	4.2	0.0	0.2	1.4	3.9	2.4	5	n/a
BC	(0.1)	1.2	0.4	2.5	3.9	(0.3)	2.7	1.8	3.4	2.4	3	n/a
CA*	2.7	n/a	4.6	6.3	6.0	(1.9)	(0.0)	1.8	4.0	3.5	2	n/a
OR*	11.4	n/a	4.0	2.2	6.6	(2.9)	2.6	0.5	8.7	5.2	1	n/a
WA*	3.4	n/a	6.6	6.1	(0.1)	(2.1)	(0.8)	0.4	1.5	2.4	4	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis Note: *shaded sections are SIC based data, 1997 onwards are NAICS based, comparisons between pre and post 1997 data should be avoided

CT2 (SI): Real Per Capita Personal Disposable Income ($1997 Canadian)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	16,808	16,769	16,995	17,394	18,014	18,453	18,799	19,282	19,566	19,662	7	5	2
ON	19,308	19,628	20,101	20,560	21,521	21,490	21,482	21,681	21,930	22,094	5	4	6
AB	18,865	19,611	20,093	20,253	21,263	22,859	22,683	22,939	24,314	25,473	4	1	1
BC	18,480	18,484	18,491	18,846	19,459	19,794	19,859	19,960	20,489	20,983	6	2	7
CA	27,116	27,486	28,681	28,816	29,581	29,303	29,761	29,882	30,758	30,749	2	6	3
OR	25,227	25,307	25,979	25,960	26,559	26,575	27,432	27,438	28,043	28,406	3	3	5
WA	27,708	28,004	28,850	29,151	29,954	29,831	30,322	30,431	32,190	31,191	1	7	4

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis Note: *shaded sections are SIC based data, 1997 onwards are NAICS based, comparisons between pre and post 1997 data should be avoided

CT3 (SI): Employment to Population Ratio (ages 15+, 16+)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	54.6	55.0	56.1	56.9	57.8	57.9	59.5	60.0	60.2	60.1	7	5	1
ON	59.7	60.2	61.2	62.3	63.2	63.0	62.9	63.8	63.8	63.5	3	6	2
AB	67.3	67.8	68.5	68.5	68.6	69.0	69.1	69.8	70.1	69.8	1	7	3
BC	60.0	60.0	59.2	59.7	60.2	59.0	59.6	60.3	60.9	61.8	5	1	5
CA	60.8	62.1	62.5	62.8	63.9	63.5	62.3	61.5	61.4	62.2	4	2	4
OR	65.2	64.6	65.2	64.3	65.7	63.6	62.4	61.6	61.2	61.3	6	4	7
WA	64.4	66.8	66.9	66.9	64.8	62.3	62.3	61.8	63.3	64.0	2	3	6

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis

PI5 (SI): Per Capita Tax Burden ($Canadian)

	1994 /95	1995 /96	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2003/04 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	5,257	5,485	5,567	5,828	6,309	6,598	6,997	6,847	6,968	7,313	7	3	6
ON	5,125	5,399	5,535	5,729	5,818	6,133	6,338	6,225	6,165	6,202	6	2	3
AB	4,073	4,088	4,223	4,567	4,706	4,672	4,760	4,998	5,187	5,208	4	1	5
BC	4,744	4,843	4,905	4,862	4,833	4,994	5,182	5,142	4,837	5,244	5	7	1
CA	3,114	3,263	3,360	3,553	3,732	4,357	4,293	4,229	4,475	4,720	3	5	7
OR	2,769	2,702	2,944	2,881	2,995	3,385	3,263	3,141	3,408	3,674	1	6	2
WA	3,286	3,365	3,479	3,556	3,693	3,910	3,932	3,953	4,160	4,367	2	4	4

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

PI6 (SI): Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rates (Percent)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2006 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	52.9	52.6	52.2	50.7	48.7	48.2	48.2	48.2	48.2	48.2	7	1	7
ON	51.6	50.3	48.8	47.9	46.4	46.4	46.4	46.4	46.4	46.4	6	1	3
AB	46.1	45.6	45.2	43.7	39.0	39.0	39.0	39.0	39.0	39.0	2	1	2
BC	54.2	54.2	52.3	51.3	45.7	43.7	43.7	43.7	43.7	43.7	3	1	1
CA*	48.9	48.9	48.9	48.9	48.4	47.9	44.3	44.3	44.3	44.3	5	1	6
OR	48.6	48.6	48.6	48.6	48.1	47.6	44.0	44.0	44.0	44.0	4	1	5
WA	39.6	39.6	39.6	39.6	39.1	38.6	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	1	1	4

Sources: BC Ministry of Finance; KPMG; US Internal Revenue Service Note: *California has imposed an additional 1 percent tax on taxable income over $1,000,000 since 2005

PI7 (SI): Surplus/(Deficit) as a Percent of GDP

	1994 /95	1995 /96	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2003/04 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	(3.4)	(2.2)	(1.8)	(1.1)	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	(0.3)	(0.1)	5	6	2
ON	(3.3)	(2.7)	(2.0)	(1.1)	(0.5)	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	(1.1)	7	7	3
AB	1.1	1.3	2.5	2.5	1.0	2.4	4.5	0.7	1.4	2.4	2	5	1
BC	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.7)	(0.1)	(0.9)	0.1	1.1	(0.9)	(2.0)	(0.8)	6	4	7
CA	0.9	1.5	1.4	2.7	2.3	2.9	(0.2)	(3.2)	(0.5)	2.2	3	2	5
OR	2.7	4.6	2.4	2.1	1.1	4.4	0.1	(4.1)	0.2	4.6	1	1	4
WA	1.0	1.9	2.4	2.5	1.9	2.1	(0.8)	(3.7)	(1.8)	0.2	4	3	6

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

PI8 (SI): Net Migration as a Proportion of the Population

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.1)	(0.1)	5	4	3
ON	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.2)	6	5	4
AB	0.9	1.5	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.3	1.1	1.7	1	1	1
BC	0.3	(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.0)	0.2	0.2	0.1	4	6	7
CA	(0.8)	(0.5)	(0.3)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.7)	7	7	2
OR	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.7	2	2	5
WA	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	3	3	6

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

PI12 (SI): R&D Expenditures as a Percent of GDP

	1994 (int.)	1995	1996 (int.)	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	2.08	2.10	2.12	2.10	2.22	2.33	2.54	2.77	2.79	2.77	4	5	3
ON	2.15	2.10	2.05	2.09	2.18	2.17	2.36	2.59	2.39	2.40	5	4	5
AB	1.10	1.06	1.02	0.98	1.10	0.99	0.92	1.06	1.15	1.08	7	7	6
BC	1.06	1.01	0.92	0.91	0.96	1.07	1.23	1.33	1.42	1.40	6	6	2
CA	4.00	3.96	4.03	4.09	4.04	4.05	4.27	3.90	3.77	4.15	2	2	7
OR	1.24	1.36	1.47	1.57	1.89	1.89	1.87	2.84	2.51	2.98	3	1	1
WA	3.68	3.46	3.85	4.23	4.34	3.89	4.75	4.60	4.49	4.68	1	3	4

Sources: Statistics Canada; US National Science Foundation Note: int.=interpolated

PI14 (SI): Air Quality - Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentration (micrograms per cubic metre)

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2000 rank
Toronto	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.0	20.0	20.0	18.0	n/a	2
Vancouver	n/a	14.8	15.3	14.0	13.7	14.3	13.3	13.8	12.8	1
Montreal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25.0	26.0	23.0	22.0	n/a	3
Edmonton	24.0	26.0	21.0	20.0	24.0	31.0	28.0	25.0	n/a	5
Los Angeles	47.0	47.0	50.0	46.8	46.1	40.5	56.3	46.3	45.3	7
Portland	34.0	32.0	29.0	27.2	30.2	28.9	26.8	23.0	20.0	4
Seattle	35.0	28.0	29.0	26.3	30.6	24.5	24.8	27.0	24.0	6

PI14 (SI): Air Quality - Annual Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Concentration (micrograms per cubic metre)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank
Vancouver	n/a	n/a	5.4	5.8	5.9	5.5	1
Calgary	n/a	n/a	6.3	6.2	7.8	6.0	2
Toronto	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.8	7.0	3
Montreal	n/a	n/a	9.7	9.8	10.7	n/a	n/a
Los Angeles	25.7	24.0	25.2	25.1	22.1	20.9	6
Portland	9.9	9.8	8.8	8.5	8.2	9.4	4
Seattle	11.5	15.7	17.6	11.3	10.7	11.7	5

Sources: BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Environment Canada; US Environmental Protection Agency

PI23 (SI): Low Weight Births (less than 2,500 grams) as a Proportion of Live Births

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	2	6	2
ON	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.9	6.1	5.9	3	1	1
AB	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.4	6	4	6
BC	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.6	1	7	4
CA	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.7	7	3	3
OR	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.8	6.1	6.0	4	2	5
WA	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.2	5	5	7

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Department of Health and Human Services

PI24 (SI): Total (Personal and Property) Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
QC	4,512	4,279	4,035	3,662	3,603	3,445	3,261	3,253	3,144	3,088	2	4	3
ON	4,545	4,065	3,690	3,412	3,223	3,142	3,078	3,050	2,788	2,637	1	2	1
AB	4,713	4,716	4,578	4,429	4,142	4,145	4,347	4,783	4,702	4,540	4	3	7
BC	8,494	7,600	7,053	6,649	6,285	6,327	6,350	6,713	6,486	6,018	7	1	4
CA	5,185	4,833	4,301	3,765	3,725	3,900	3,958	4,007	3,977	3,923	3	6	2
OR	5,917	6,153	5,528	4,887	4,832	5,043	4,667	5,073	4,934	4,859	5	5	5
WA	5,870	5,859	5,786	5,178	5,091	5,148	5,109	5,102	5,190	5,130	6	7	6

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau; Federal Bureau of Investigation

Supplemental Information: North American Comparisons

CT1 (SI): Real Per Capita GDP ($1997 Canadian)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank
British Columbia	28,614	28,968	29,094	29,816	30,983	30,875	31,697	32,279	33,370	34,173	45
Alberta	36,129	37,825	38,861	38,678	40,318	40,321	40,408	40,980	42,596	43,598	18
Saskatchewan	27,537	28,640	29,875	30,018	31,011	30,949	30,951	32,251	33,309	34,504	44
Manitoba	25,289	26,186	27,265	27,574	28,627	28,760	29,101	29,326	29,849	30,552	55
Ontario	31,023	32,004	33,141	35,201	36,722	36,710	37,212	37,201	37,898	38,536	37
Quebec	25,192	25,902	26,647	28,193	29,281	29,556	30,062	30,266	30,859	31,322	53
New Brunswick	22,134	22,384	23,266	24,717	25,239	25,680	26,832	27,429	28,118	28,236	58
Nova Scotia	20,967	21,843	22,671	23,864	24,596	25,419	26,380	26,619	26,792	27,276	59
Prince Edward Island	20,545	20,572	21,558	22,392	22,794	22,521	23,551	23,768	24,420	24,874	61
Newfoundland & Labrador	18,590	19,116	20,571	21,963	23,335	23,976	27,858	29,651	29,460	29,765	56
Alabama	27,371	28,279	28,862	29,662	29,552	29,715	30,293	31,120	32,549	33,312	48
Alaska	52,062	49,237	46,352	46,501	46,237	43,733	46,940	45,863	48,477	48,317	7
Arizona	30,501	32,424	34,224	35,917	36,986	37,197	36,980	37,747	38,214	40,133	27
Arkansas	25,958	27,437	27,957	28,892	28,489	28,428	29,080	29,641	31,149	31,616	52
California	37,054	37,831	39,585	42,071	44,583	43,722	43,718	44,516	46,307	47,950	9
Colorado	36,581	39,877	41,758	43,819	46,153	45,871	45,329	45,463	46,700	47,982	8
Connecticut	46,388	49,576	51,349	51,868	53,871	53,808	52,554	52,508	54,637	56,467	3
Delaware	48,807	56,946	56,900	58,833	58,961	60,396	59,583	61,050	63,283	63,114	2
District of Columbia	101,331	106,982	108,250	113,656	114,167	120,112	123,581	127,960	134,891	141,923	1
Florida	29,712	31,083	32,016	32,738	33,427	33,755	33,943	34,747	36,184	38,124	39
Georgia	34,967	37,261	38,632	40,145	40,362	39,736	39,136	39,102	40,098	41,216	22
Hawaii	37,589	37,367	36,479	36,793	37,158	37,251	37,296	38,214	39,664	41,123	23
Idaho	27,487	27,984	28,618	30,670	32,158	31,844	31,726	32,124	34,683	36,392	43
Illinois	37,631	39,977	41,094	41,998	42,770	42,566	42,448	43,346	44,094	44,852	15
Indiana	31,432	34,041	35,384	35,902	36,583	35,616	36,658	37,894	38,982	39,129	33
Iowa	31,546	34,170	34,316	34,605	35,503	35,144	36,467	37,454	38,955	39,464	31
Kansas	31,196	32,979	34,091	34,454	35,125	35,477	35,899	36,206	37,222	38,568	36
Kentucky	29,463	32,254	32,441	32,905	31,578	31,514	32,277	32,820	33,585	34,096	46
Louisiana	31,741	30,893	32,130	32,542	31,170	30,657	30,711	31,050	32,324	31,697	51
Maine	27,319	29,670	29,575	30,192	31,055	31,389	31,599	31,930	33,259	33,565	47
Maryland	34,414	36,040	37,077	38,134	38,792	39,813	40,615	41,269	42,836	44,098	17
Massachusetts	42,008	42,964	45,194	47,586	50,909	50,960	50,526	51,833	53,762	55,228	4
Michigan	32,324	36,757	37,284	38,235	38,493	37,137	38,132	38,896	38,507	38,476	38
Minnesota	36,311	39,476	40,865	41,703	43,260	43,106	43,869	45,117	46,879	47,162	10
Mississippi	24,321	25,166	25,586	25,918	25,574	25,374	25,536	26,331	26,899	27,038	60
Missouri	31,990	34,805	35,257	35,263	35,749	35,735	35,919	36,393	37,059	37,590	41
Montana	24,532	25,940	26,554	26,775	27,160	27,468	28,067	29,138	29,963	31,276	54
Nebraska	34,519	36,140	36,580	36,831	37,392	37,497	38,078	39,923	40,139	40,565	25
Nevada	39,925	40,957	40,442	40,923	40,930	40,188	39,842	41,374	42,875	44,818	16
New Hampshire	36,583	37,075	39,508	40,033	42,257	41,717	42,124	43,095	45,001	46,601	12
New Jersey	42,381	44,150	45,120	45,875	46,930	47,925	47,904	48,666	49,898	50,755	6
New Mexico	30,960	32,233	32,258	34,607	34,813	34,740	34,790	35,710	37,594	38,810	34
New York	42,142	42,320	43,846	45,899	48,134	48,963	48,609	49,131	51,222	52,989	5
North Carolina	33,522	36,044	37,010	38,672	39,008	39,081	39,113	39,447	40,002	40,893	24
North Dakota	29,463	30,282	31,268	30,919	31,984	32,513	34,311	36,322	36,243	37,883	40
Ohio	32,455	35,514	36,630	37,133	37,395	36,696	37,406	37,915	38,996	39,352	32
Oklahoma	27,053	27,893	28,175	28,695	29,503	30,073	30,260	30,705	31,550	32,257	50
Oregon	33,054	35,250	36,667	37,471	39,940	38,777	39,792	39,989	43,467	45,731	13
Pennsylvania	32,226	33,862	35,051	35,761	36,182	36,711	37,307	37,866	38,796	39,500	30
Rhode Island	31,753	33,525	33,847	34,310	36,123	36,468	36,904	38,255	39,521	40,458	26
South Carolina	28,089	30,429	31,068	31,714	31,784	31,933	32,058	32,710	32,521	33,215	49
South Dakota	30,734	32,089	33,457	34,472	36,215	36,496	39,443	39,860	41,107	42,253	21
Tennessee	31,306	33,639	34,259	34,927	34,787	34,798	35,889	36,856	38,470	3[illegible],644	35
Texas	34,897	36,621	38,097	39,176	39,992	40,249	40,338	40,197	41,552	42,6[illegible]0	20
Utah	30,217	32,192	33,023	33,812	34,213	33,897	33,584	33,876	35,103	36,411	42
Vermont	30,148	30,623	31,843	33,080	34,398	35,701	36,202	37,366	38,901	39,963	29
Virginia	36,023	37,420	38,927	40,156	41,497	42,385	42,081	43,042	44,955	46,925	11
Washington	35,463	37,896	40,404	42,878	42,842	41,924	41,587	41,767	42,410	43,419	19
West Virginia	24,823	25,717	25,910	26,728	26,438	26,811	27,105	27,289	28,146	28,980	57
Wisconsin	32,098	34,702	35,950	36,891	37,303	37,454	37,822	38,524	39,508	40,077	28
Wyoming	39,303	36,719	36,835	38,804	39,394	41,182	41,402	42,485	43,728	45,553	14

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis Note: *shaded sections are SIC based data, 1997 onwards are NAICS based, comparisons between pre and post 1997 data should be avoided

CT1 (SI): Growth Rate of Real Per Capita GDP ($1997 Canadian)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank
British Columbia	(0.1)	n/a	0.4	2.5	3.9	(0.3)	2.7	1.8	3.4	2.4	28
Alberta	0.5	n/a	2.7	(0.5)	4.2	0.0	0.2	1.4	3.9	2.4	32
Saskatchewan	2.4	n/a	4.3	0.5	3.3	(0.2)	0.0	4.2	3.3	3.6	14
Manitoba	2.6	n/a	4.1	1.1	3.8	0.5	1.2	0.8	1.8	2.4	31
Ontario	(0.1)	n/a	3.6	6.2	4.3	(0.0)	1.4	(0.0)	1.9	1.7	42
Quebec	0.6	n/a	2.9	5.8	3.9	0.9	1.7	0.7	2.0	1.5	44
New Brunswick	0.5	n/a	3.9	6.2	2.1	1.7	4.5	2.2	2.5	0.4	56
Nova Scotia	0.3	n/a	3.8	5.3	3.1	3.3	3.8	0.9	0.7	1.8	39
Prince Edward Island	2.0	n/a	4.8	3.9	1.8	(1.2)	4.6	0.9	2.7	1.9	37
Newfoundland & Labrador	(3.3)	n/a	7.6	6.8	6.3	2.7	16.2	6.4	(0.6)	1.0	50
Alabama	2.2	n/a	2.1	2.8	(0.4)	0.6	1.9	2.7	4.6	2.3	33
Alaska	(2.0)	n/a	(5.9)	0.3	(0.6)	(5.4)	7.3	(2.3)	5.7	(0.3)	60
Arizona	4.3	n/a	5.6	4.9	3.0	0.6	(0.6)	2.1	1.2	5.0	4
Arkansas	2.8	n/a	1.9	3.3	(1.4)	(0.2)	2.3	1.9	5.1	1.5	45
California	2.7	n/a	4.6	6.3	6.0	(1.9)	(0.0)	1.8	4.0	3.5	16
Colorado	2.8	n/a	4.7	4.9	5.3	(0.6)	(1.2)	0.3	2.7	2.7	24
Connecticut	2.5	n/a	3.6	1.0	3.9	(0.1)	(2.3)	(0.1)	4.1	3.4	18
Delaware	0.4	n/a	(0.1)	3.4	0.2	2.4	(1.3)	2.5	3.7	(0.3)	59
District of Columbia	(0.5)	n/a	1.2	5.0	0.5	5.2	2.9	3.5	5.4	5.2	2
Florida	2.7	n/a	3.0	2.3	2.1	1.0	0.6	2.4	4.1	5.4	1
Georgia	4.1	n/a	3.7	3.9	0.5	(1.6)	(1.5)	(0.1)	2.5	2.8	23
Hawaii	(1.5)	n/a	(2.4)	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.1	2.5	3.8	3.7	12
Idaho	0.8	n/a	2.3	7.2	4.9	(1.0)	(0.4)	1.3	8.0	4.9	5
Illinois	2.6	n/a	2.8	2.2	1.8	(0.5)	(0.3)	2.1	1.7	1.7	40
Indiana	3.0	n/a	3.9	1.5	1.9	(2.6)	2.9	3.4	2.9	0.4	57
Iowa	4.9	n/a	0.4	0.8	2.6	(1.0)	3.8	2.7	4.0	1.3	48
Kansas	3.7	n/a	3.4	1.1	1.9	1.0	1.2	0.9	2.8	3.6	13
Kentucky	2.7	n/a	0.6	1.4	(4.0)	(0.2)	2.4	1.7	2.3	1.5	43
Louisiana	0.4	n/a	4.0	1.3	(4.2)	(1.6)	0.2	1.1	4.1	(1.9)	61
Maine	2.2	n/a	(0.3)	2.1	2.9	1.1	0.7	1.0	4.2	0.9	51
Maryland	1.3	n/a	2.9	2.9	1.7	2.6	2.0	1.6	3.8	2.9	21
Massachusetts	4.4	n/a	5.2	5.3	7.0	0.1	(0.9)	2.6	3.7	2.7	26
Michigan	2.6	n/a	1.4	2.6	0.7	(3.5)	2.7	2.0	(1.0)	(0.1)	58
Minnesota	5.1	n/a	3.5	2.1	3.7	(0.4)	1.8	2.8	3.9	0.6	53
Mississippi	1.6	n/a	1.7	1.3	(1.3)	(0.8)	0.6	3.1	2.2	0.5	54
Missouri	2.7	n/a	1.3	0.0	1.4	(0.0)	0.5	1.3	1.8	1.4	47
Montana	0.6	n/a	2.4	0.8	1.4	1.1	2.2	3.8	2.8	4.4	9
Nebraska	4.6	n/a	1.2	0.7	1.5	0.3	1.6	4.8	0.5	1.1	49
Nevada	3.5	n/a	(1.3)	1.2	0.0	(1.8)	(0.9)	3.8	3.6	4.5	6
New Hampshire	6.0	n/a	6.6	1.3	5.6	(1.3)	1.0	2.3	4.4	3.6	15
New Jersey	3.5	n/a	2.2	1.7	2.3	2.1	(0.0)	1.6	2.5	1.7	41
New Mexico	2.1	n/a	0.1	7.3	0.6	(0.2)	0.1	2.6	5.3	3.2	19
New York	3.6	n/a	3.6	4.7	4.9	1.7	(0.7)	1.1	4.3	3.5	17
North Carolina	1.5	n/a	2.7	4.5	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.9	1.4	2.2	35
North Dakota	6.9	n/a	3.3	(1.1)	3.4	1.7	5.5	5.9	(0.2)	4.5	7
Ohio	2.5	n/a	3.1	1.4	0.7	(1.9)	1.9	1.4	2.9	0.9	52
Oklahoma	3.9	n/a	1.0	1.8	2.6	1.9	0.6	1.5	2.8	2.2	34
Oregon	11.4	n/a	4.0	2.2	6.6	(2.9)	2.6	0.5	8.7	5.2	3
Pennsylvania	2.1	n/a	3.5	2.0	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.5	2.5	1.8	38
Rhode Island	1.6	n/a	1.0	1.4	5.3	1.0	1.2	3.7	3.3	2.4	30
South Carolina	1.4	n/a	2.1	2.1	0.2	0.5	0.4	2.0	(0.6)	2.1	36
South Dakota	3.7	n/a	4.3	3.0	5.1	0.8	8.1	1.1	3.1	2.8	22
Tennessee	1.2	n/a	1.8	1.9	(0.4)	0.0	3.1	2.7	4.4	0.5	55
Texas	3.5	n/a	4.0	2.8	2.1	0.6	0.2	(0.3)	3.4	2.5	27
Utah	6.7	n/a	2.6	2.4	1.2	(0.9)	(0.9)	0.9	3.6	3.7	11
Vermont	3.3	n/a	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	1.4	3.2	4.1	2.7	25
Virginia	2.9	n/a	4.0	3.2	3.3	2.1	(0.7)	2.3	4.4	4.4	8
Washington	3.4	n/a	6.6	6.1	(0.1)	(2.1)	(0.8)	0.4	1.5	2.4	29
West Virginia	2.1	n/a	0.8	3.2	(1.1)	1.4	1.1	0.7	3.1	3.0	20
Wisconsin	3.6	n/a	3.6	2.6	1.1	0.4	1.0	1.9	2.6	1.4	46
Wyoming	2.3	n/a	0.3	5.3	1.5	4.5	0.5	2.6	2.9	4.2	10

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis Note: *shaded sections are SIC based data, 1997 onwards are NAICS based, comparisons between pre and post 1997 data should be avoided

CT2 (SI): Real Per Capita Personal Disposable Income ($1997 Canadian)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank
British Columbia	18,480	18,484	18,491	18,846	19,459	19,794	19,859	19,960	20,489	20,983	54
Alberta	18,865	19,611	20,093	20,253	21,263	22,859	22,683	22,939	24,314	25,473	43
Saskatchewan	16,735	15,745	16,260	16,793	17,155	17,201	17,357	18,059	18,995	19,341	57
Manitoba	17,556	17,194	17,833	17,959	18,346	18,615	18,729	18,873	19,364	19,443	56
Ontario	19,308	19,628	20,101	20,560	21,521	21,490	21,482	21,681	21,930	22,094	53
Quebec	16,808	16,769	16,995	17,394	18,014	18,453	18,799	19,282	19,566	19,862	55
New Brunswick	15,990	15,991	16,610	17,159	17,423	17,739	17,770	18,084	18,518	18,671	59
Nova Scotia	16,210	16,480	17,064	17,562	17,772	18,101	18,232	18,245	18,480	18,711	58
Prince Edward Island	15,465	15,561	15,867	16,412	16,935	16,917	17,476	17,224	17,734	17,579	61
Newfoundland & Labrador	14,514	14,426	14,922	15,383	15,839	16,538	16,894	17,353	17,539	17,827	60
Alabama	22,008	22,343	23,153	23,344	23,655	24,036	24,668	25,211	25,852	26,111	42
Alaska	28,375	28,657	28,973	28,963	29,701	30,769	[illegible],373	31,629	31,753	31,977	13
Arizona	22,501	23,101	24,044	24,357	25,093	25,082	25,575	25,878	26,580	26,940	38
Arkansas	20,871	21,011	21,546	21,781	21,777	22,342	22,624	23,285	24,097	24,045	50
California	27,151	27,486	28,804	29,144	30,027	30,065	30,786	30,922	31,816	31,898	14
Colorado	27,353	27,817	29,168	30,144	31,736	32,333	32,221	32,399	33,071	33,198	8
Connecticut	33,435	34,185	35,702	36,185	37,520	37,832	38,516	38,239	39,541	39,615	2
Delaware	27,226	27,044	28,417	28,483	29,535	29,798	30,953	31,388	32,389	32,256	11
District of Columbia	34,878	35,429	36,343	35,683	37,549	41,168	42,506	43,681	45,598	46,840	1
Florida	26,857	25,942	26,987	27,311	27,885	27,996	28,600	28,754	29,279	29,545	22
Georgia	24,707	24,877	25,876	26,366	27,035	26,988	27,139	26,909	27,283	27,325	37
Hawaii	27,244	27,211	27,270	27,476	27,921	27,460	28,158	28,747	29,909	30,294	20
Idaho	22,077	21,915	22,788	23,220	23,556	23,943	24,425	24,179	25,056	25,125	46
Illinois	28,270	28,758	29,807	29,930	30,809	30,453	31,007	31,577	31,686	31,451	18
Indiana	24,068	24,415	25,614	25,798	26,578	26,150	26,818	27,316	27,867	27,666	35
Iowa	24,824	25,075	25,796	25,647	26,289	26,150	27,190	27,257	28,945	28,865	29
Kansas	24,715	25,231	26,326	26,458	27,028	27,387	27,783	28,139	28,710	29,110	27
Kentucky	21,517	21,969	22,819	23,041	23,990	23,791	24,287	24,458	25,104	25,200	45
Louisiana	21,821	22,155	23,017	22,828	23,124	24,084	24,556	24,937	25,620	22,607	52
Maine	23,101	23,525	24,431	24,795	25,277	25,919	26,530	26,901	27,654	27,541	36
Maryland	28,881	29,050	30,409	31,150	32,369	32,853	33,916	34,282	35,371	35,663	5
Massachusetts	30,147	30,750	31,959	32,674	34,067	34,759	35,957	36,232	37,471	37,372	4
Michigan	25,954	26,357	27,401	27,996	28,588	28,414	28,848	29,855	29,578	29,287	25
Minnesota	27,120	27,728	29,268	29,953	30,556	30,415	31,104	31,706	32,696	32,219	12
Mississippi	19,741	20,178	20,890	20,955	21,281	21,881	21,973	22,600	23,257	23,036	51
Missouri	24,385	24,963	25,746	25,958	26,610	26,422	27,136	27,654	28,168	28,313	32
Montana	20,949	21,295	22,249	22,174	22,741	23,923	24,311	25,016	25,730	26,140	41
Nebraska	25,755	25,482	26,588	26,923	27,075	27,454	28,113	29,323	30,059	29,887	21
Nevada	28,128	28,375	29,181	29,449	29,584	29,275	29,376	30,144	31,092	31,554	16
New Hampshire	28,906	28,664	30,163	30,528	32,107	31,933	32,671	32,739	33,932	34,030	6
New Jersey	32,440	33,055	34,331	34,387	35,977	35,870	36,547	36,417	37,296	37,476	3
New Mexico	21,012	21,138	21,826	21,703	22,004	23,488	23,560	23,863	24,482	24,820	48
New York	29,587	30,443	31,419	31,710	32,460	31,869	32,364	32,554	33,675	33,900	7
North Carolina	24,113	24,730	25,410	25,716	26,296	26,050	26,175	26,162	26,910	26,842	39
North Dakota	23,541	22,382	24,483	24,237	25,396	25,358	25,922	27,939	27,779	28,416	30
Ohio	24,839	25,695	26,604	26,910	27,271	26,972	27,598	28,031	28,444	28,378	31
Oklahoma	21,618	21,963	22,751	23,103	24,184	25,141	25,017	25,332	25,879	26,211	40
Oregon	24,956	25,307	26,064	26,321	26,867	26,786	27,428	27,188	27,764	27,899	34
Pennsylvania	26,223	26,645	27,867	27,998	28,743	28,562	29,476	29,788	30,438	30,554	19
Rhode Island	26,167	26,626	27,441	27,599	28,164	28,859	29,846	30,348	31,193	31,610	15
South Carolina	21,884	22,276	23,082	23,510	24,165	24,121	24,523	24,766	25,318	25,332	44
South Dakota	24,252	23,935	25,233	25,580	26,033	26,588	26,712	28,455	28,788	28,868	28
Tennessee	24,212	24,468	25,472	25,898	26,310	26,398	27,043	27,586	28,236	28,242	33
Texas	24,427	25,313	26,458	27,011	28,058	28,108	28,129	28,372	28,902	29,334	24
Utah	21,075	21,679	22,486	22,640	23,380	23,707	23,998	24,081	24,648	24,942	47
Vermont	23,853	24,310	25,546	26,228	26,986	27,565	27,994	28,556	29,368	29,410	23
Virginia	26,843	27,429	28,096	28,652	29,464	30,107	30,890	31,374	32,528	33,118	9
Washington	27,398	28,004	29,227	29,772	30,894	30,800	31,417	31,316	32,669	31,483	17
West Virginia	20,403	20,741	21,453	21,503	21,956	22,704	23,394	23,554	24,176	24,538	49
Wisconsin	24,783	25,364	26,575	26,984	27,534	27,675	28,438	28,641	29,306	29,261	26
Wyoming	23,633	24,615	25,662	26,771	27,533	28,799	29,858	30,747	31,863	32,473	10

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis. Note: *shaded sections are SIC based data, 1997 onwards are NAICS based, comparisons between pre and post 1997 data should be avoided

CT3 (SI): Employment to Population Ratio (ages 15+, 16+)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank
British Columbia	60.0	60.0	59.2	59.7	60.2	59.0	59.6	60.3	60.9	61.8	40
Alberta	67.3	67.8	68.5	68.5	68.6	69.0	69.1	69.8	70.1	69.8	4
Saskatchewan	61.0	62.2	62.7	62.8	63.3	61.8	63.1	64.0	64.3	64.6	19
Manitoba	61.6	62.3	63.2	63.7	64.5	64.4	65.5	65.3	65.4	65.3	18
Ontario	59.7	60.2	61.2	62.3	63.2	63.0	62.9	63.8	63.8	63.5	32
Quebec	54.6	55.0	56.1	56.9	57.8	57.9	59.5	60.0	60.2	60.1	49
New Brunswick	51.8	52.1	53.1	54.6	55.4	55.0	57.0	56.7	57.6	57.4	58
Nova Scotia	52.0	52.5	54.1	55.0	55.7	55.9	56.6	57.3	58.4	58.2	56
Prince Edward Island	56.4	55.9	56.4	56.6	58.7	59.0	59.5	60.2	60.3	61.1	46
Newfoundland & Labrador	42.3	42.9	44.4	46.6	46.1	47.7	48.5	49.5	49.8	49.8	61
Alabama	60.3	61.8	61.4	60.2	60.3	59.3	57.6	58.8	58.4	58.8	54
Alaska	68.4	68.2	69.8	68.8	68.2	68.1	66.4	66.4	66.7	66.8	14
Arizona	62.8	60.8	61.8	63.3	62.2	62.6	62.2	61.5	61.5	61.1	45
Arkansas	61.2	59.8	59.1	60.0	59.5	58.0	59.0	57.3	58.9	60.7	47
California	60.8	62.1	62.5	62.8	63.9	63.5	62.3	61.5	61.4	62.2	39
Colorado	69.3	70.4	71.6	71.4	70.4	68.8	67.7	67.7	68.3	68.6	6
Connecticut	64.3	64.8	65.3	65.4	67.3	65.2	64.7	63.6	63.6	63.7	31
Delaware	65.0	64.6	65.6	64.7	66.7	67.7	65.2	63.8	64.3	64.1	23
District of Columbia	58.3	56.8	58.9	63.5	63.9	63.4	62.0	61.9	62.0	63.4	34
Florida	58.8	59.3	59.6	60.1	60.4	60.2	59.1	58.6	59.3	60.1	50
Georgia	64.7	66.2	66.9	66.8	67.3	65.1	64.3	65.4	63.9	64.2	21
Hawaii	64.0	63.4	63.2	63.2	64.1	64.7	62.7	62.7	63.4	64.4	20
Idaho	66.7	66.9	67.6	66.1	65.8	66.7	65.2	64.7	65.1	66.3	16
Illinois	64.9	65.3	65.5	66.7	66.7	64.9	62.6	61.7	62.3	62.9	36
Indiana	66.3	66.8	66.8	66.2	65.7	64.8	64.7	64.6	63.7	63.8	28
Iowa	70.8	70.3	70.0	70.1	69.1	69.5	70.3	67.4	67.6	68.0	11
Kansas	66.9	67.9	69.1	70.0	67.7	65.5	65.8	66.2	66.5	67.1	13
Kentucky	59.0	60.4	60.8	61.5	61.5	59.8	58.3	58.2	58.5	58.3	55
Louisiana	57.9	58.3	59.4	59.4	58.2	58.3	56.4	56.9	57.6	57.5	57
Maine	65.5	64.1	63.5	65.1	66.4	64.5	63.4	63.3	63.4	63.7	30
Maryland	68.5	67.7	66.8	67.3	67.1	67.1	67.2	66.3	65.5	66.0	17
Massachusetts	64.6	66.2	66.6	66.5	65.4	65.3	65.4	64.0	63.7	63.7	29
Michigan	63.1	64.0	64.8	66.0	66.3	64.3	61.3	60.7	61.0	61.2	44
Minnesota	71.7	72.1	73.5	73.0	72.4	73.1	72.4	71.3	72.9	71.0	1
Mississippi	58.5	58.4	58.3	58.0	59.9	58.2	56.6	57.5	57.7	56.6	59
Missouri	68.5	67.9	66.7	66.4	67.6	67.2	65.3	65.5	64.2	63.9	27
Montana	63.1	63.7	64.7	65.6	65.7	63.3	62.7	63.3	63.5	64.0	24
Nebraska	72.0	71.4	71.9	71.0	71.3	71.1	70.6	71.1	71.2	70.6	2
Nevada	65.4	66.6	66.8	66.0	67.3	66.8	65.6	64.2	64.0	63.9	26
New Hampshire	67.3	69.6	69.6	70.4	70.8	69.4	68.0	68.5	68.4	68.5	7
New Jersey	63.1	64.3	63.4	64.1	64.1	63.3	62.5	62.2	62.6	63.3	35
New Mexico	57.9	59.5	60.2	58.5	60.4	60.3	60.1	60.0	60.2	60.6	48
New York	57.8	59.1	59.6	59.7	60.2	59.1	59.3	58.6	58.9	59.7	51
North Carolina	65.5	66.1	64.5	65.1	65.5	64.2	62.1	62.5	62.4	62.5	38
North Dakota	69.8	70.6	70.0	68.1	68.4	68.5	67.5	68.0	69.0	69.3	5
Ohio	63.0	63.8	63.5	64.0	64.1	64.6	63.2	63.3	62.5	62.6	37
Oklahoma	61.3	61.6	61.7	62.9	62.1	62.1	61.7	60.5	61.0	61.6	41
Oregon	65.2	64.6	65.2	64.3	65.7	63.6	62.4	61.6	61.2	61.3	43
Pennsylvania	60.2	61.1	61.0	61.6	61.4	62.0	61.8	60.3	61.0	61.4	42
Rhode Island	62.4	63.5	63.0	64.4	63.9	63.0	62.9	64.3	63.1	64.2	22
South Carolina	61.5	63.6	64.1	62.7	62.6	59.7	58.9	59.4	59.5	59.6	52
South Dakota	70.1	69.2	70.7	71.0	70.6	69.9	71.1	71.2	70.4	70.0	3
Tennessee	63.5	61.6	62.8	63.6	62.4	62.0	62.4	60.9	60.1	59.3	53
Texas	65.2	65.2	65.9	65.6	65.5	64.8	63.5	63.4	63.5	63.5	33
Utah	68.8	69.5	69.2	69.6	69.8	68.6	67.0	67.4	67.9	68.4	9
Vermont	68.4	68.6	69.3	69.9	68.2	67.7	68.7	67.8	68.1	68.4	10
Virginia	64.3	64.2	65.6	65.6	66.6	66.1	65.7	65.4	66.1	66.6	15
Washington	64.4	66.8	66.9	66.9	64.8	62.3	62.3	61.8	63.3	64.0	25
West Virginia	51.4	51.7	51.5	52.7	53.5	54.6	52.6	51.2	51.7	52.3	60
Wisconsin	72.1	72.0	71.9	70.1	70.0	69.8	68.3	68.8	67.6	67.1	12
Wyoming	67.5	65.6	67.0	67.8	69.0	69.2	67.6	68.7	68.3	68.5	8

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Bureau of Economic Analysis

PI8 (SI): Net Migration as a Proportion of the Population

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Rank
British Columbia	0.26	(0.25)	(0.36)	(0.36)	(0.21)	(0.21)	(0.03)	0.19	0.20	0.09	28
Alberta	0.95	1.52	0.87	0.77	0.68	0.86	0.38	0.34	1.07	1.74	3
Saskatchewan	(0.27)	(0.19)	(0.43)	(0.78)	(0.83)	(0.88)	(0.52)	(0.45)	(0.96)	(0.92)	57
Manitoba	(0.52)	(0.46)	(0.19)	(0.30)	(0.38)	(0.38)	(0.25)	(0.22)	(0.62)	(0.74)	55
Ontario	0.02	0.08	0.15	0.19	0.16	0.05	0.01	(0.06)	(0.09)	(0.17)	40
Quebec	(0.24)	(0.23)	(0.18)	(0.17)	(0.13)	(0.06)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.07)	(0.11)	36
New Brunswick	(0.17)	(0.42)	(0.17)	(0.16)	(0.20)	(0.16)	(0.11)	(0.10)	(0.28)	(0.50)	51
Nova Scotia	(0.18)	(0.28)	0.02	(0.03)	(0.22)	(0.10)	0.05	(0.08)	(0.32)	(0.42)	47
Prince Edward Island	0.10	(0.31)	0.14	0.08	0.12	0.05	0.12	0.10	(0.10)	(0.09)	35
Newfoundland & Labrador	(1.45)	(1.72)	(1.05)	(0.80)	(0.85)	(0.64)	(0.32)	(0.39)	(0.72)	(0.85)	56
Alabama	0.22	0.23	0.22	(0.01)	(0.08)	(0.14)	(0.13)	0.10	0.15	0.29	16
Alaska	(0.79)	(0.90)	(0.38)	(0.86)	(0.55)	(0.44)	0.13	0.04	0.23	(0.43)	48
Arizona	1.74	1.51	1.37	1.27	1.15	1.03	1.25	1.14	1.55	2.16	2
Arkansas	0.62	0.34	0.21	0.10	0.06	0.03	0.07	0.24	0.38	0.53	12
California	(0.81)	(0.47)	(0.29)	(0.25)	(0.19)	(0.14)	(0.31)	(0.27)	(0.44)	(0.67)	54
Colorado	0.99	0.98	0.94	1.12	1.02	0.91	0.24	(0.25)	(0.12)	0.12	25
Connecticut	(0.65)	(0.65)	(0.52)	(0.35)	(0.26)	(0.17)	(0.03)	0.03	(0.36)	(0.41)	46
Delaware	0.50	0.41	0.57	0.61	0.51	0.41	0.55	0.72	0.76	0.87	6
District of Columbia	(3.35)	(2.83)	(2.34)	(1.39)	(1.36)	(1.34)	(1.88)	(2.28)	(1.77)	(1.79)	61
Florida	0.82	0.89	0.77	0.56	0.78	0.97	1.12	1.05	1.49	1.51	4
Georgia	1.12	1.08	0.99	0.96	0.79	0.62	0.44	0.40	0.55	0.52	13
Hawaii	(1.07)	(1.09)	(1.19)	(1.69)	(1.05)	(0.40)	(0.18)	(0.05)	0.02	(0.15)	38
Idaho	0.93	0.90	0.62	0.61	0.59	0.58	0.61	0.76	0.98	1.42	5
Illinois	(0.54)	(0.58)	(0.57)	(0.55)	(0.55)	(0.55)	(0.59)	(0.60)	(0.61)	(0.63)	52
Indiana	0.20	0.06	0.00	(0.01)	(0.06)	(0.12)	(0.16)	0.00	(0.09)	0.08	29
Iowa	(0.09)	(0.20)	(0.17)	(0.11)	(0.26)	(0.42)	(0.40)	(0.28)	(0.12)	(0.11)	37
Kansas	(0.31)	(0.05)	0.11	(0.11)	(0.31)	(0.50)	(0.38)	(0.39)	(0.41)	(0.37)	45
Kentucky	0.23	0.23	0.20	0.21	0.10	(0.01)	0.10	0.24	0.18	0.26	18
Louisiana	(0.36)	(0.39)	(0.41)	(0.44)	(0.57)	(0.71)	(0.40)	(0.24)	(0.21)	(0.29)	43
Maine	0.14	0.11	0.03	0.29	0.43	0.58	0.74	0.77	0.38	0.25	19
Maryland	(0.25)	(0.27)	(0.18)	(0.09)	0.05	0.20	0.24	0.12	(0.12)	(0.24)	42
Massachusetts	(0.27)	(0.16)	(0.16)	(0.14)	(0.25)	(0.36)	(0.62)	(0.76)	(0.97)	(0.94)	58
Michigan	(0.07)	(0.19)	(0.26)	(0.17)	(0.20)	(0.22)	(0.30)	(0.25)	(0.37)	(0.47)	50
Minnesota	0.26	0.11	0.11	0.29	0.22	0.15	(0.07)	(0.12)	(0.17)	(0.17)	39
Mississippi	0.22	0.23	0.13	0.04	(0.11)	(0.26)	(0.23)	(0.03)	0.13	0.03	30
Missouri	0.31	0.27	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.09	0.11	0.07	0.14	24
Montana	0.54	(0.17)	(0.25)	0.03	0.01	(0.00)	0.19	0.52	0.69	0.64	11
Nebraska	0.20	(0.11)	(0.32)	(0.28)	(0.37)	(0.46)	(0.33)	(0.17)	(0.25)	(0.19)	41
Nevada	3.34	3.52	2.67	2.35	2.36	2.37	2.13	2.09	2.87	2.39	1
New Hampshire	0.81	0.59	0.59	0.77	0.86	0.95	0.77	0.51	0.44	0.35	15
New Jersey	(0.54)	(0.53)	(0.45)	(0.39)	(0.34)	(0.30)	(0.29)	(0.39)	(0.55)	(0.66)	53
New Mexico	0.28	(0.19)	(0.47)	(0.72)	(0.57)	(0.41)	0.23	0.28	0.26	0.27	17
New York	(1.27)	(1.25)	(1.04)	(0.92)	(0.89)	(0.86)	(0.91)	(0.92)	(1.11)	(1.21)	60
North Carolina	1.11	0.96	0.86	0.70	0.60	0.51	0.43	0.41	0.53	0.78	7
North Dakota	(0.20)	(0.80)	(0.99)	(1.11)	(1.10)	(1.10)	(0.76)	(0.44)	0.12	(0.46)	49
Ohio	(0.16)	(0.26)	(0.32)	(0.29)	(0.31)	(0.32)	(0.30)	(0.23)	(0.28)	(0.35)	44
Oklahoma	0.28	0.19	0.19	0.01	(0.12)	(0.25)	0.00	(0.09)	(0.07)	0.03	31
Oregon	1.04	0.78	0.48	0.32	0.37	0.42	0.63	0.37	0.07	0.68	9
Pennsylvania	(0.33)	(0.42)	(0.36)	(0.32)	(0.24)	(0.17)	(0.01)	0.07	(0.03)	(0.04)	33
Rhode Island	(0.63)	(0.57)	(0.34)	(0.10)	0.03	0.17	0.38	0.10	(0.19)	(0.95)	59
South Carolina	0.43	0.65	0.71	0.65	0.47	0.28	0.45	0.51	0.68	0.75	8
South Dakota	(0.21)	(0.60)	(0.53)	(0.24)	(0.22)	(0.20)	(0.21)	(0.01)	0.24	0.11	27
Tennessee	0.91	0.70	0.49	0.42	0.31	0.19	0.20	0.36	0.39	0.66	10
Texas	0.31	0.32	0.38	0.24	0.22	0.20	0.22	0.14	0.17	0.23	21
Utah	0.52	0.36	(0.34)	(0.41)	(0.42)	(0.42)	(0.36)	(0.53)	(0.29)	0.21	22
Vermont	0.24	(0.00)	(0.05)	0.12	0.14	0.17	0.26	0.14	0.01	(0.07)	34
Virginia	0.14	0.06	(0.06)	0.36	0.28	0.19	0.27	0.33	0.35	0.20	23
Washington	0.52	0.67	0.44	0.19	0.26	0.33	0.22	0.09	0.32	0.39	14
West Virginia	(0.10)	(0.20)	(0.25)	(0.35)	(0.31)	(0.28)	0.20	0.34	0.16	0.23	20
Wisconsin	0.21	(0.02)	(0.01)	0.10	0.07	0.04	0.11	0.07	0.02	0.00	32
Wyoming	(0.25)	(0.66)	(0.52)	(0.63)	(0.56)	(0.49)	0.53	0.01	0.26	0.11	26

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

PI12 (SI): R&D Expenditures as a Percent of GDP

	1994 (int. for US)	1995	1996 (int. for US)	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003 rank
British Columbia	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	39
Alberta	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	47
Saskatchewan	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	46
Manitoba	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	42
Ontario	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.4	20
Quebec	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	16
New Brunswick	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	55
Nova Scotia	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	36
Prince Edward Island	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.1	44
Newfoundland & Labrador	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	54
Alabama	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	30
Alaska	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	48
Arizona	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.7	3.4	2.0	1.9	2.4	2.0	29
Arkansas	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	57
California	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.3	3.9	3.8	4.1	7
Colorado	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.2	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.7	17
Connecticut	3.2	3.6	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.9	3.0	3.2	4.1	3.8	9
Delaware	4.8	4.2	3.9	3.5	6.9	3.4	3.6	2.9	2.8	2.8	14
District of Columbia	6.1	6.6	6.2	5.6	5.0	4.5	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.8	8
Florida	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.9	52
Georgia	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.2	41
Hawaii	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.9	51
Idaho	2.8	3.4	3.9	4.3	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.4	3.6	3.0	12
Illinois	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.8	2.2	2.1	2.2	22
Indiana	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.1	2.1	26
Iowa	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	37
Kansas	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.2	23
Kentucky	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	56
Louisiana	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	58
Maine	0.9	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	53
Maryland	5.5	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.8	5.9	4.5	4.8	3
Massachusetts	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.6	4.8	4.7	5.2	5.0	5.3	2
Michigan	4.9	5.3	5.2	5.0	4.4	5.8	5.6	4.6	4.3	4.7	4
Minnesota	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.8	15
Mississippi	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	2.1	25
Missouri	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	38
Montana	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	49
Nebraska	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	45
Nevada	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	59
New Hampshire	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.2	3.4	3.1	1.8	3.6	3.1	3.5	10
New Jersey	3.6	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.6	3.2	3.8	3.1	3.4	3.2	11
New Mexico	7.3	7.9	7.2	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.1	7.8	8.8	8.7	1
New York	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	34
North Carolina	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.7	2.0	27
North Dakota	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.8	2.5	1.5	1.8	33
Ohio	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.2	24
Oklahoma	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0	50
Oregon	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.8	2.5	3.0	13
Pennsylvania	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.2	21
Rhode Island	2.8	3.5	3.6	3.8	5.7	5.3	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	6
South Carolina	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.3	40
South Dakota	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	60
Tennessee	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.5	35
Texas	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	32
Utah	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	28
Vermont	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.1	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.4	19
Virginia	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.5	18
Washington	3.6	3.5	4.0	4.3	4.3	3.9	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.7	5
West Virginia	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	43
Wisconsin	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.8	31
Wyoming	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	61

Sources: Statistics Canada; US National Science Foundation Note: int.=interpolated

PI23 (SI): Low Weight Births (less than 2,500 grams) as a Proportion of Live Births

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004 rank
British Columbia	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.6	5
Alberta	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.4	15
Saskatchewan	5.6	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.6	5.6	2
Manitoba	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.6	3
Ontario	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.9	6.1	5.9	9
Quebec	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7
New Brunswick	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.5	4.7	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.6	4
Nova Scotia	6.0	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.4	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.9	8
Prince Edward Island	4.6	5.3	5.1	4.9	5.3	4.3	4.0	5.3	4.2	5.5	1
Newfoundland & Labrador	5.5	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.0	5.6	5.8	6
Alabama	9.0	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.7	9.6	9.9	10.0	10.4	58
Alaska	5.3	5.5	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.0	10
Arizona	6.8	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.8	7.1	7.2	26
Arkansas	8.2	8.5	8.4	8.9	8.6	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.9	9.3	53
California	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.7	18
Colorado	8.4	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.9	9.0	9.0	49
Connecticut	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.8	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.8	7.5	7.8	29
Delaware	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.4	8.6	8.6	9.3	9.9	9.4	9.0	49
District of Columbia	13.4	14.3	13.4	13.1	13.1	11.9	12.1	11.6	10.9	11.1	60
Florida	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.0	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.5	45
Georgia	8.8	8.5	8.8	8.5	8.7	8.6	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.3	53
Hawaii	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.5	8.1	8.3	8.6	7.9	31
Idaho	5.9	5.8	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.7	6.4	6.1	6.5	6.8	20
Illinois	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	44
Indiana	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.9	7.9	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.8	8.1	36
Iowa	6.0	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.4	6.6	6.6	7.0	23
Kansas	6.4	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.3	27
Kentucky	7.6	7.9	7.8	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.7	8.8	48
Louisiana	9.7	9.9	10.2	10.1	10.0	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.7	10.9	59
Maine	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.4	13
Maryland	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.7	9.0	8.6	9.0	9.0	9.1	9.3	53
Massachusetts	6.3	6.4	7.0	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	29
Michigan	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	40
Minnesota	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.5	16
Mississippi	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.1	10.3	10.7	10.7	11.2	11.4	11.6	61
Missouri	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.6	8.0	8.0	8.3	40
Montana	5.8	6.4	6.3	7.0	6.8	6.2	6.9	6.8	6.8	7.6	28
Nebraska	6.3	6.3	7.0	6.5	6.7	6.8	6.6	7.2	6.9	7.0	23
Nevada	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.2	7.6	7.5	8.1	8.0	32
New Hampshire	5.5	4.8	5.8	5.7	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.8	20
New Jersey	7.6	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.2	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.3	40
New Mexico	7.5	7.5	7.8	7.6	7.7	8.0	7.9	8.0	8.5	8.1	36
New York	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.2	38
North Carolina	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	49
North Dakota	5.3	5.7	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.6	17
Ohio	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.3	8.5	45
Oklahoma	7.0	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.8	8.0	7.7	8.0	32
Oregon	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.8	6.1	6.0	10
Pennsylvania	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.9	7.7	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.2	38
Rhode Island	6.8	6.9	7.4	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.9	8.7	8.0	32
South Carolina	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.5	9.8	9.7	9.6	10.0	10.0	10.2	57
South Dakota	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.8	5.9	6.2	6.4	7.2	6.6	6.9	22
Tennessee	8.7	8.8	8.8	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.4	9.2	52
Texas	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.9	8.0	32
Utah	6.3	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.7	18
Vermont	5.4	6.2	6.3	6.5	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.4	7.1	6.4	13
Virginia	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.2	8.3	40
Washington	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.2	12
West Virginia	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.0	8.0	8.3	8.5	9.0	8.6	9.3	53
Wisconsin	6.0	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.8	7.0	23
Wyoming	7.4	8.4	9.0	8.9	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.9	8.6	47

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Department of Health and Human Services

PI24 (SI): Total (Personal and Property) Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 rank
British Columbia	8,494	7,600	7,053	6,649	6,285	6,327	6,350	6,713	6,486	6,018	60
Alberta	4,713	4,716	4,578	4,429	4,142	4,145	4,347	4,783	4,702	4,540	43
Saskatchewan	5,864	5,875	5,782	5,516	5,737	5,798	5,642	6,482	6,030	5,464	58
Manitoba	5,801	5,497	5,223	5,241	5,155	5,284	5,126	5,767	5,871	5,249	57
Ontario	4,545	4,065	3,690	3,412	3,223	3,142	3,078	3,050	2,788	2,637	8
Quebec	4,512	4,279	4,035	3,662	3,603	3,445	3,261	3,253	3,144	3,088	19
New Brunswick	3,027	2,745	2,671	2,638	2,651	2,561	2,592	2,767	2,731	2,535	7
Nova Scotia	3,746	3,771	3,800	3,698	3,286	3,266	3,092	3,368	3,568	3,354	25
Prince Edward Island	3,124	2,886	2,425	2,792	2,783	2,756	3,015	3,349	3,250	3,218	23
Newfoundland & Labrador	2,521	2,386	2,459	2,300	2,303	2,183	2,368	2,482	2,588	2,437	5
Alabama	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,541	4,316	4,472	4,478	4,456	4,432	41
Alaska	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,248	4,254	4,330	4,338	4,003	3,973	34
Arizona	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,790	6,091	6,408	6,149	5,849	5,678	59
Arkansas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,107	4,135	4,163	4,077	4,516	4,502	42
California	5,185	4,833	4,301	3,765	3,725	3,900	3,958	4,007	3,977	3,923	33
Colorado	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,959	4,210	4,356	4,289	4,292	4,262	37
Connecticut	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,226	3,111	2,999	2,913	2,917	2,897	15
Delaware	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,462	4,057	3,947	4,041	3,734	3,747	31
District of Columbia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,289	7,743	8,111	7,482	6,222	6,345	61
Florida	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,671	5,585	5,432	5,190	4,894	4,795	48
Georgia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,726	4,629	4,496	4,675	4,674	4,600	45
Hawaii	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,196	5,397	6,095	5,549	5,050	5,001	53
Idaho	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,172	3,133	3,166	3,147	3,035	2,981	18
Illinois	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,279	4,086	4,021	3,842	3,730	3,725	29
Indiana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,745	3,825	3,753	3,710	3,730	3,703	28
Iowa	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,231	3,292	3,451	3,237	3,178	3,185	21
Kansas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,402	4,311	4,092	4,388	4,351	4,348	39
Kentucky	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,954	2,937	2,906	2,944	2,785	2,788	12
Louisiana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,422	5,338	5,107	5,002	5,059	4,997	52
Maine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,615	2,689	2,651	2,561	2,517	2,514	6
Maryland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,802	4,863	4,761	4,502	4,338	4,316	38
Massachusetts	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,020	3,091	3,102	3,026	2,923	2,923	17
Michigan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,103	4,077	3,878	3,789	3,551	3,607	27
Minnesota	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,478	3,575	3,532	3,378	3,311	3,317	24
Mississippi	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,999	4,186	4,167	4,047	3,777	3,735	30
Missouri	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,519	4,765	4,596	4,476	4,390	4,398	40
Montana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,528	3,682	3,509	3,462	3,230	3,190	22
Nebraska	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,091	4,315	4,263	4,003	3,828	3,784	32
Nevada	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,226	4,289	4,509	4,901	4,826	4,674	46
New Hampshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,424	2,323	2,221	2,203	2,208	2,156	3
New Jersey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,153	3,218	3,029	2,910	2,789	2,779	11
New Mexico	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,511	5,314	5,077	4,777	4,886	4,845	49
New York	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,096	2,913	2,803	2,708	2,633	2,641	9
North Carolina	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,902	4,931	4,726	4,724	4,608	4,560	44
North Dakota	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,292	2,411	2,408	2,177	1,990	2,008	1
Ohio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,038	4,173	4,113	3,975	4,018	4,023	35
Oklahoma	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,554	4,599	4,752	4,821	4,743	4,722	47
Oregon	5,917	6,153	5,528	4,887	4,832	5,043	4,867	5,073	4,934	4,859	50
Pennsylvania	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,994	2,959	2,844	2,829	2,829	2,835	13
Rhode Island	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,468	3,687	3,593	3,282	3,133	3,147	20
South Carolina	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,206	4,757	5,303	5,271	5,289	5,205	56
South Dakota	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,317	2,327	2,281	2,174	2,106	2,097	2
Tennessee	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,878	5,147	5,025	5,067	5,008	5,015	54
Texas	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,932	5,151	5,203	5,152	5,039	4,951	51
Utah	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,456	4,210	4,413	4,423	4,265	4,180	36
Vermont	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,981	2,770	2,531	2,310	2,421	2,422	4
Virginia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,017	3,176	3,144	2,981	2,944	2,921	16
Washington	5,870	5,859	5,788	5,178	5,091	5,148	5,109	5,102	5,190	5,130	55
West Virginia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,604	2,580	2,511	2,617	2,782	2,777	10
Wisconsin	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,203	3,320	3,254	3,104	2,876	2,892	14
Wyoming	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,296	3,520	3,578	3,579	3,568	3,546	26

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; US Census Bureau

Supplemental Information: International Comparisons

Note: The full international data sets are not provided due to size restrictions. Data for 1990, 1995, 2000 and the most recent year are provided so that other researchers can replicate our results.

CT1 (SI): Gross Domestic Product [Per Head at the Price Levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)]

	1990	1995	2000	2004	Rank for Real GDP Per Capita, 2004
British Columbia	23,207	24,590	26,349	27,916	14
Australia	21,448	23,832	27,219	29,601	9
Austria	23,284	25,036	28,707	29,629	8
Belgium	22,187	23,611	26,645	27,826	15
Canada	23,626	24,309	28,428	30,054	7
Czech Republic	14,094	13,471	14,560	16,493	26
Denmark	23,152	25,541	28,807	29,536	10
Finland	22,283	20,937	26,083	28,384	13
France	22,173	23,072	25,923	26,878	17
Germany	21,491	23,285	25,553	26,044	20
Greece	13,936	14,412	16,632	19,634	23
Hungary	n/a	9,825	12,099	14,401	27
Iceland	25,009	24,146	29,011	31,839	5
Ireland	15,223	18,588	28,836	32,958	4
Italy	22,187	23,581	25,871	26,151	19
Japan	23,164	24,568	25,503	26,502	18
Korea	9,932	13,753	16,344	19,163	24
Luxembourg	35,644	40,331	50,740	55,472	1
Mexico	7,848	7,630	9,094	9,178	30
Netherlands	22,354	23,960	28,368	28,957	12
New Zealand	17,783	19,067	20,708	22,942	21
Norway	26,649	31,321	36,273	38,416	2
Poland	7,405	8,146	10,687	12,002	29
Portugal	14,136	15,328	18,369	18,394	25
Slovak Republic	n/a	9,111	10,840	12,836	28
Spain	16,504	17,617	21,074	22,510	22
Sweden	23,226	23,293	27,170	29,148	11
Switzerland	29,014	27,960	30,357	30,386	6
Turkey	5,751	6,141	6,810	7,364	31
United Kingdom	20,630	22,141	25,583	27,754	16
United States	28,200	29,907	34,574	36,239	3
Euro Area	20,657	21,996	24,887	25,739	n/a
OECD Total	18,993	20,078	22,601	23,500	n/a
OECD Europe	20,719	21,996	24,837	26,010	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

CT1 (SI): Growth in GDP [Per Head at the Price Levels and PPPs of 2000 (US dollars)], percent

	1990	1995	2000	2004	Rank for Real GDP per capita Growth, 2003 - 2004
British Columbia	(1.13)	(0.02)	3.55	3.70	9
Australia	(1.96)	2.78	0.66	1.17	29
Austria	3.81	1.75	3.11	1.73	22
Belgium	2.85	2.17	3.62	2.16	21
Canada	(1.32)	1.67	4.22	2.24	20
Czech Republic	n/a	5.99	3.99	4.64	6
Denmark	1.32	2.59	3.20	1.63	24
Finland	(0.36)	3.54	4.79	3.22	12
France	2.15	1.84	3.38	1.68	23
Germany	4.34	1.59	3.08	1.27	28
Greece	(0.70)	1.83	4.14	4.29	7
Hungary	n/a	0.82	5.48	5.45	3
Iceland	0.36	(0.40)	2.97	6.43	2
Ireland	8.59	9.17	8.80	2.56	17
Italy	1.97	2.83	3.54	0.07	31
Japan	4.85	1.66	2.77	2.27	19
Korea	8.09	8.08	7.58	4.22	8
Luxembourg	4.13	(0.03)	6.96	3.49	10
Mexico	3.68	(7.01)	5.02	2.87	14
Netherlands	3.36	2.51	3.20	1.62	25
New Zealand	(1.21)	2.53	1.57	2.56	16
Norway	1.75	3.85	2.17	2.49	18
Poland	n/a	6.83	5.28	5.31	5
Portugal	4.35	3.94	3.38	0.60	30
Slovak Republic	n/a	5.52	1.94	5.36	4
Spain	3.62	2.61	4.17	1.58	27
Sweden	0.25	3.36	4.17	3.33	11
Switzerland	2.68	(0.25)	3.00	1.62	26
Turkey	6.71	5.33	2.40	7.30	1
United Kingdom	0.45	2.57	3.68	2.64	15
United States	0.72	1.33	2.55	2.92	13
Euro Area	3.02	2.24	3.52	1.34	n/a
OECD Total	2.49	2.27	3.02	1.78	n/a
OECD Europe	2.12	1.72	2.98	2.38	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

CT3 (SI): Employment to Population Ratio (Percent - for those aged 15-64)

	1990	1995	2000	2005	Rank for Employment to Population Ratio, 2005
British Columbia	71.2	70.5	70.1	72.0	9
Australia	68.4	67.7	69.3	71.6	10
Austria	n/a	68.6	68.2	68.6	14
Belgium	54.4	56.3	60.9	61.0	24
Canada	70.3	67.5	70.9	72.5	8
Czech Republic	n/a	69.4	65.2	64.8	19
Denmark	75.4	73.9	76.4	75.5	3
Finland	74.1	61.1	67.0	68.0	15
France	59.9	59.1	61.1	62.3	23
Germany	64.1	64.6	65.6	65.5	18
Greece	54.8	54.5	55.9	60.3	25
Hungary	n/a	52.9	56.0	56.9	29
Iceland	n/a	80.5	84.6	84.4	1
Ireland	52.1	54.1	64.5	67.1	17
Italy	52.6	51.2	53.9	57.5	28
Japan	68.6	69.2	68.9	69.3	13
Korea	61.2	63.5	61.5	63.7	21
Luxembourg	59.2	58.5	62.7	63.6	22
Mexico	n/a	58.2	60.9	59.6	26
Netherlands	61.8	65.1	72.3	71.1	12
New Zealand	67.5	70.1	70.7	74.6	5
Norway	73.0	73.5	77.9	75.2	4
Poland	n/a	58.1	55.0	53.0	30
Portugal	67.4	63.2	68.3	67.5	16
Slovak Republic	n/a	60.2	56.8	57.7	27
Spain	51.8	48.3	57.4	64.3	20
Sweden	83.1	72.2	74.2	73.9	6
Switzerland	n/a	76.4	78.4	77.2	2
Turkey	54.5	52.4	48.9	45.9	31
United Kingdom	72.5	69.2	72.2	72.6	7
United States	72.2	72.5	74.1	71.5	11
OECD	70.3	67.5	70.9	72.5	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI3 (SI): International Exports of Goods and Services Per Capita, at the Price Levels and PPPs of 2000 ($US)

	1990	1995	2000	2004	Rank for 2004 (of 31)
British Columbia	6,242	8,090	9,236	8,064	18
Australia	3,474	4,571	6,107	5,440	24
Austria	8,786	8,780	13,044	15,172	6
Belgium	15,414	16,004	22,553	23,328	3
Canada	6,060	9,033	12,916	11,451	11
Czech Republic	6,024	6,831	9,385	11,751	10
Denmark	8,602	9,613	13,422	13,360	9
Finland	5,005	7,554	11,019	10,592	13
France	4,691	5,231	7,411	7,005	20
Germany	5,284	5,578	8,528	9,951	14
Greece	2,462	2,485	4,164	4,014	27
Hungary	n/a	4,351	8,952	9,410	16
Iceland	8,232	8,524	9,800	11,004	12
Ireland	8,884	14,579	28,375	27,548	2
Italy	4,265	6,069	7,000	6,626	22
Japan	2,424	2,247	2,811	3,529	29
Korea	2,776	3,965	6,671	8,442	17
Luxembourg	34,366	40,743	74,542	77,932	1
Mexico	1,460	2,321	2,817	2,715	30
Netherlands	12,798	14,465	19,818	19,287	4
New Zealand	4,774	5,534	7,351	6,675	21
Norway	10,771	11,893	16,937	16,388	5
Poland	1,953	1,903	2,893	4,561	26
Portugal	4,450	4,429	5,476	5,282	25
Slovak Republic	n/a	5,269	7,618	9,919	15
Spain	2,661	3,943	6,118	5,811	23
Sweden	6,920	9,131	12,481	13,396	8
Switzerland	10,364	9,905	13,867	13,940	7
Turkey	764	1,222	1,638	2,127	31
United Kingdom	4,956	6,272	7,172	7,007	19
United States	2,706	3,308	3,882	3,660	28
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI9 (SI): Total Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP

	1990	1995	2000	2005	Rank for 2005 (of 30)
British Columbia	23.9	21.1	17.8	21.5	12
Australia	25.1	23.1	23.4	25.9	7
Austria	22.6	22.1	22.8	20.8	14
Belgium	n/a	19.3	20.8	19.9	20
Canada	21.3	17.6	19.2	20.7	15
Czech Republic	n/a	31.6	27.7	26.4	5
Denmark	19.5	18.4	20.2	20.6	16
Finland	n/a	16.7	19.7	19.2	25
France	21.6	18.1	19.5	19.7	21
Germany	n/a	21.9	21.5	17.1	28
Greece	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hungary	n/a	n/a	23.4	23.1	10
Iceland	n/a	n/a	22.5	28.7	3
Ireland	n/a	n/a	24.3	27.0	4
Italy	22.1	19.1	20.3	20.6	17
Japan	32.3	28.0	25.2	23.2	9
Korea	37.1	37.3	31.1	29.3	2
Luxembourg	n/a	19.9	20.8	20.3	18
Mexico	n/a	16.1	21.4	19.3	24
Netherlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.5	23
New Zealand	20.6	21.8	21.2	23.8	8
Norway	21.5	19.9	18.6	18.7	26
Poland	n/a	17.7	23.7	18.2	27
Portugal	n/a	22.5	27.1	21.6	11
Slovak Republic	n/a	25.0	25.9	26.2	6
Spain	n/a	21.5	25.8	29.4	1
Sweden	n/a	15.8	17.5	17.0	29
Switzerland	29.1	23.3	22.8	21.3	13
Turkey	22.9	23.8	22.4	19.6	22
United Kingdom	20.5	16.3	17.0	16.6	30
United States	18.3	18.2	20.2	19.9	19
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	19.0	21.5	23.3	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI9 (SI): Business Gross Fixed Capital Formation as a Percent of GDP

	1990	1995	2000	2005	Rank for 2005 (of 15)
British Columbia	21.0	18.3	15.3	18.8	3
Australia	22.5	20.6	21.0	23.8	1
Austria	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Belgium	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Canada	18.3	15.0	16.9	18.2	5
Czech Republic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Denmark	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Finland	n/a	13.9	17.1	16.3	8
France	18.1	14.9	16.4	16.4	7
Germany	n/a	19.7	19.7	15.8	10
Greece	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hungary	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Iceland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ireland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Italy	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Japan	25.8	19.9	18.4	18.5	4
Korea	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Luxembourg	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mexico	n/a	12.4	17.8	15.0	13
Netherlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.4	11
New Zealand	15.6	18.8	18.1	18.8	2
Norway	18.0	16.7	15.9	16.0	9
Poland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Portugal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Slovak Republic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Spain	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sweden	n/a	13.1	14.9	13.8	14
Switzerland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Turkey	15.6	19.9	16.4	15.3	12
United Kingdom	20.0	14.8	15.9	13.5	15
United States	14.6	15.0	17.1	16.7	6
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI12 (SI): R&D Expenditures as a Percent of GDP

	1990	1995	2000	2004	Rank for 2004 (of 31)
British Columbia	0.97	1.01	1.23	1.45	19
Australia	1.28	1.53‡‡‡	1.51	1.64‡‡	17
Austria	1.36	1.54	1.91	2.24	10
Belgium	1.58††	1.67	1.97	1.90	13
Canada	1.53	1.72	1.94	1.99	12
Czech Republic	1.90††	0.95	1.23	1.27	20
Denmark	1.55	1.82	2.39**	2.48	9
Finland	1.86	2.26	3.38	3.51	2
France	2.33	2.29	2.15	2.16	11
Germany	2.67	2.19	2.45	2.49	8
Greece	0.36††	0.49	0.65**	0.62*	28
Hungary	1.46	0.73	0.79	0.89	25
Iceland	0.99	1.56	2.73	2.92*	5
Ireland	0.82	1.26	1.13	1.20	21
Italy	1.25	0.97	1.05	1.11*	23
Japan	2.97	2.90	2.99	3.15*	3
Korea	1.84††	2.37	2.39	2.85	6
Luxembourg	n/a	n/a	1.71	1.75	16
Mexico	n/a	0.31	0.37	0.43*	31
Netherlands	1.98	1.91	1.82	1.78	15
New Zealand	0.98	0.95	1.13**	1.14*	22
Norway	1.64††	1.70	1.60**	1.61	18
Poland	0.90	0.65	0.66	0.58	29
Portugal	0.51	0.57	0.80	0.78*	26
Slovak Republic	1.66	0.93	0.65	0.53	30
Spain	0.80	0.79	0.91	1.07	24
Sweden	2.70††	3.32	4.25**	3.95*	1
Switzerland	2.59†††	2.67‡	2.57	2.94	4
Turkey	0.32	0.38	0.64	0.66‡‡	27
United Kingdom	2.15	1.95	1.86	1.88*	14
United States	2.65	2.51	2.74	2.68	7
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes: ††=1991; †††=1992; ‡‡‡=1994 ‡=1996; **=2001; ‡‡=2002; *=2003; ***=1995-2002; †=1995-2003.

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI15 (SI): Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Gigagrams (Gg) of CO2 Equivalent

	1990	1995	2000	2003	Rank for 2003 (of 28)
British Columbia	15.7	15.8	15.8	15.4	21
Australia	24.3	24.2	26.0	25.8	28
Austria	10.2	10.1	10.1	11.3	13
Belgium	14.6	15.0	14.4	14.2	19
Canada	21.6	22.1	23.6	23.8	26
Czech Republic	18.5	14.8	14.3	14.3	20
Denmark	13.8	14.9	13.1	14.0	18
Finland	14.1	14.0	13.6	16.4	22
France	9.8	9.5	9.2	9.0	5
Germany	15.7	13.5	12.4	12.3	15
Greece	10.6	10.8	12.1	12.5	16
Hungary	11.8	8.1	7.9	8.2	4
Iceland	12.9	11.5	11.6	10.4	10
Ireland	15.3	16.2	18.2	16.9	23
Italy	9.0	9.3	9.7	9.9	9
Japan	9.6	10.6	10.5	10.5	11
Korea	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Luxembourg	35.2	24.9	21.7	25.1	27
Mexico	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Netherlands	14.2	14.5	13.4	13.2	17
New Zealand	18.0	17.3	18.0	18.7	24
Norway	11.8	11.4	12.0	12.0	14
Poland	14.8	10.8	10.1	9.7	8
Portugal	5.9	6.9	7.8	7.8	2
Slovak Republic	13.6	9.9	9.0	9.6	7
Spain	7.3	8.0	9.5	9.6	6
Sweden	8.4	8.3	7.6	7.9	3
Switzerland	7.7	7.2	7.1	7.1	1
Turkey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
United Kingdom	13.1	11.9	11.1	10.9	12
United States	24.3	24.0	24.6	23.7	25
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	o/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	o/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	o/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

P!17 (SI): Life Expectancy at Birth, Years

	1990	1995	2000	2004	Rank for 2004 (of 31)
British Columbia	78.0	78.6	80.2	80.9	4
Australia	77.0	77.9	79.3	80.6	5
Austria	75.5	76.6	78.1	79.3	12
Belgium	76.1	77.3	78.3	78.8*	16
Canada	77.4	78.1	79.2	79.8	10
Czech Republic	71.5	73.2	75.0	75.8	26
Denmark	74.9	75.3	76.9	77.6	22
Finland	74.9	76.5	77.6	78.8	16
France	76.9	77.9	79.0	80.3	8
Germany	75.2	76.5	78.0	78.6	18
Greece	77.1	77.7	78.1	79.0	15
Hungary	69.4	69.9	71.7	72.8	30
Iceland	78.0	78.0	80.1	81.0	3
Ireland	74.9	75.7	76.5	78.3*	20
Italy	76.9	78.1	79.6	79.7*	11
Japan	78.9	79.6	81.2	82.1	1
Korea	71.4**	73.5	76.0**	77.4*	24
Luxembourg	75.4	76.6	78.0	78.0*	21
Mexico	71.2	72.7	74.1	75.2	27
Netherlands	77.0	77.5	78.0	79.2	13
New Zealand	75.4	77.1	78.7	79.2	13
Norway	76.6	77.8	78.7	79.9	9
Poland	71.5	72.0	73.8	75.0	28
Portugal	73.9	75.2	76.6	77.4*	24
Slovak Republic	71.0	72.4	73.3	74.1	29
Spain	76.8	77.9	79.2	80.5	7
Sweden	77.6	78.8	79.7	80.6	5
Switzerland	77.4	78.5	79.8	81.2	2
Turkey	66.1	67.9	70.5	71.2	31
United Kingdom	75.7	76.6	77.8	78.5*	19
United States	75.3	75.7	76.8	77.5*	23

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD *=2003, **=interpolated

PI23 (SI): Low Birth Weight Rate, percent

	1990	1995	2000	2004	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average
British Columbia	5.0	5.3	5.2	5.6	5.2	8
Australia	6.1	5.9	6.3	n/a	6.2	15
Austria	5.6	5.7	6.3	6.8	6.4	18
Belgium	6.1	6.5	n/a	n/a	6.3	17
Canada	5.5	5.8	5.6	5.9	5.7	10
Czech Republic	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.8	6.0	12
Denmark	5.2	5.5	4.9	5.3	5.3	9
Finland	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.2	3
France	5.3	5.8	6.8	6.8	6.6	22
Germany	5.7	6.1	n/a	n/a	6.5	21
Greece	6.0	6.8	8.1	n/a	7.8	27
Hungary	9.3	8.2	8.4	8.3	8.4	29
Iceland	2.9	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.8	2
Ireland	4.2	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.9	6
Italy	5.6	6.0	6.7	6.7	6.4	19
Japan	6.3	7.5	8.6	9.4	8.4	30
Korea	n/a	3.0	3.8	4.2	3.7	1
Luxembourg	5.4	5.7	n/a	n/a	5.9	11
Mexico	n/a	n/a	9.7	9.1	9.5	31
Netherlands	4.8	n/a	n/a	5.4	5.2	7
New Zealand	6.2	6.0	6.4	6.1	6.3	16
Norway	4.6	4.6	5.0	4.8	4.9	5
Poland	8.1	6.7	5.7	6.1	6.1	14
Portugal	5.6	6.0	7.1	7.6	7.1	24
Slovak Republic	5.8	6.5	6.7	7.2	6.7	23
Spain	4.5	5.5	6.5	7.1	6.4	20
Sweden	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.3	4
Switzerland	5.1	5.5	5.9	6.3	6.0	13
Turkey	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.9	28
United Kingdom	6.7	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.4	25
United States	7.1	7.3	7.6	8.1	7.7	26
Euro Area	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

PI26 (SI): Long-Term Unemployment, percent of unemployed

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2005 Rank
British Columbia	6.5	10.6	10.2	10.4	6.0
Australia	21.1	32.0	25.5	17.7	9.0
Austria	..	29.1	25.8	25.3	13.0
Belgium	68.5	62.4	56.3	51.6	25.0
Canada	7.2	16.8	11.2	9.6	5.0
Czech Republic	..	31.2	48.8	53.6	28.0
Denmark	29.9	27.9	20.0	25.9	14.0
Finland	..	37.6	29.0	24.9	12.0
France	38.1	42.5	42.6	42.5	22.0
Germany	46.8	48.7	51.5	54.0	30.0
Greece	49.8	51.4	56.4	53.7	29.0
Hungary	..	50.6	49.0	46.1	23.0
Iceland	..	16.8	11.8	11.2	7.0
Ireland	66.0	61.6	..	34.3	18.0
Italy	69.8	63.6	61.3	52.2	27.0
Japan	19.1	18.1	25.5	33.3	17.0
Korea	2.6	4.4	2.3	0.8	1.0
Luxembourg	47.4	23.2	22.4	26.3	15.0
Mexico	..	1.3	1.1	2.4	2.0
Netherlands	49.3	46.8	..	40.1	21.0
New Zealand	21.8	25.7	19.3	9.4	3.0
Norway	20.4	24.2	5.4	9.5	4.0
Poland	..	40.0	37.9	52.2	26.0
Portugal	44.9	50.9	42.9	48.6	24.0
Slovak Republic	..	54.1	54.6	68.1	31.0
Spain	54.0	57.1	47.6	32.6	16.0
Sweden	12.1	27.8	26.4	18.9	10.0
Switzerland	..	33.6	29.0	38.8	19.0
Turkey	47.0	36.4	21.1	39.6	20.0
United Kingdom	34.4	43.6	28.0	22.4	11.0
United States	5.5	9.7	6.0	11.8	8.0
OECD Total	31.2	34.2	31.5	32.8	n/a
OECD Europe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada; OECD

Supplemental Information: Topic Boxes

PI3 (SI): Provincial Balance of Trade, 2005 ($millions)

	Overall Trade Balance	Trade Surplus/ (Deficit) as a Percent of GDP	International Balance of Trade			Interprovincial Balance of Trade		
			Total	Goods	Services	Total	Goods	Services
BC	(4,252)	(2.52)	4,160	804	3,356	(8,412)	(5,189)	(3,223)
AB	40,705	18.64	32,776	32,934	(158)	7,929	12,584	(4,655)
SK	2,948	6.87	6,918	7,577	(659)	(3,970)	1,076	(5,046)
MB	(1,960)	(4.70)	809	1,342	(533)	(2,769)	(2,720)	(49)
ON	32,463	6.04	10,823	17,092	(6,269)	21,640	(3,923)	25,563
QC	(8,402)	(3.07)	(3,743)	(4,982)	1,239	(4,659)	(488)	(4,171)
NB	(2,987)	(12.36)	(248)	(581)	333	(2,739)	(651)	(2,088)
NS	(5,166)	(16.48)	(2,061)	(2,009)	(52)	(3,105)	(974)	(2,131)
PE	(962)	(23.08)	133	92	41	(1,095)	(490)	(605)
NF	1,485	6.91	2,280	2,309	(29)	(795)	1,648	(2,443)

Source: Statistics Canada

PI 4-7 (SI): Size of Government: Consolidated Provincial-Local Expenditure as a Percent of GDP

	1996 /97	1997 /98	1998 /99	1999 /00	2000 /01	2001 /02	2002 /03	2003 /04	2004 /05	2005 /06	2005/06 Rank	1-Year Progress Check	Period Progress Rank
BC	28.2	27.7	29.6	27.8	26.4	27.2	26.6	26.1	25.6	25.4	3	4	3
AB	20.0	19.3	20.5	20.0	18.8	19.9	19.8	18.4	18.5	17.5	1	2	2
SK	27.2	27.7	28.9	29.8	26.8	30.4	32.0	28.9	28.4	27.8	5	3	9
MB	30.8	30.3	30.2	31.8	30.6	30.6	29.8	31.0	30.4	30.7	7	8	7
ON	25.1	23.8	23.5	22.7	22.3	22.3	22.8	23.7	24.0	24.0	2	7	5
QC	33.8	32.7	32.4	31.5	31.2	32.2	32.3	33.2	32.7	33.1	9	9	8
NB	33.4	33.3	33.7	33.6	30.8	31.1	31.4	31.3	31.2	31.6	8	10	6
NS	32.1	32.3	32.4	31.4	29.6	29.7	29.7	29.6	30.5	30.3	6	5	4
PE	33.9	34.2	34.8	35.1	35.0	35.8	34.9	37.1	34.8	34.6	10	6	10
NF	40.6	39.7	38.5	38.4	35.2	36.0	31.1	29.9	28.9	27.2	4	1	1
Canada	27.7	26.7	26.9	26.2	25.2	25.8	26.0	26.1	26.0	25.7	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI8 (SI): Population Changes

	1990 - 1995		1995 - 2000		2000 - 2006		1990 - 2006	
	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change
BC	486,190	14.8	262,194	6.9	271,254	6.7	1,019,638	31.0
AB	187,349	7.4	270,425	9.9	370,823	12.3	828,597	32.5
SK	7,012	0.7	(6,359)	(0.6)	(22,381)	(2.2)	(21,728)	(2.2)
MB	23,478	2.1	18,227	1.6	30,392	2.6	72,097	6.5
ON	652,101	6.3	735,404	6.7	1,001,572	8.6	2,389,077	23.2
QC	215,570	3.1	137,583	1.9	294,502	4.0	647,655	9.2
NB	10,859	1.5	(461)	(0.1)	(1,350)	(0.2)	9,048	1.2
NS	18,556	2.0	5,688	0.6	524	0.1	24,768	2.7
PE	3,868	3.0	2,079	1.5	2,033	1.5	7,980	6.1
NF	(10,595)	(1.8)	(39,399)	(6.9)	(18,366)	(3.5)	(68,360)	(11.8)
Canada	1,604,561	5.8	1,386,944	4.7	1,934,455	6.3	4,925,960	17.8

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

PI10 (SI): Total Expenditures in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, per capita, $1992

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	Average, 1997/98 - 2003/04	Rank for Average
BC	6,568	6,765	6,852	6,922	6,912	7,169	7,029	6,888	1
AB	5,847	6,040	6,034	6,306	6,576	6,777	6,629	6,316	6
SK	5,167	5,288	5,398	5,449	5,790	6,231	6,493	5,688	9
MB	6,156	6,307	6,339	6,693	6,722	6,946	7,185	6,621	4
ON	6,772	6,941	6,726	6,726	6,565	6,614	6,998	6,763	3
QC	6,268	6,267	6,646	6,883	6,979	7,193	7,150	6,769	2
NB	6,021	6,212	6,625	6,063	6,209	6,262	6,832	6,318	5
NS	5,126	5,237	5,736	6,881	5,922	5,829	5,802	5,790	8
PE	4,890	5,181	5,440	5,676	5,329	6,116	6,179	5,544	10
NF	5,175	5,354	5,577	5,560	6,150	6,331	6,557	5,815	7
Canada	6,374	6,511	6,540	6,669	6,650	6,802	6,953	6,643	n/a

Source: Statistics Canada, Summary Public School Indicators for the Provinces and Territories, 1997-1998 to 2003-2004

PI24: Crime Rates for Canadian and American Cities, 2005, per 100,000 population

	Violent Crime				Property Crime				Total	Rank (of 18)
	Homicide	Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Total	Break and Enter	Motor Vehicle Theft	Theft	Total		
Vancouver	2.9	208	149	361	1,192	990	3,819	6,002	6,363	18
Winnipeg	3.7	306	263	573	1,070	1,712	2,827	5,609	6,182	17
Phoenix	8.4	308	163	480	1,021	1,110	3,105	5,236	5,716	15
Dallas	6.8	315	195	517	1,051	541	3,136	4,728	5,244	14
Edmonton	4.3	185	142	332	1,025	1,059	3,452	5,536	5,867	16
Houston	9.1	390	278	677	1,005	571	2,646	4,221	4,897	13
Calgary	2.5	170	103	275	771	435	2,356	3,562	3,838	11
Detroit[1]	9.8	472	215	697	735	821	1,821	3,377	4,074	12
Montreal	1.3	171	147	320	892	649	1,849	3,390	3,710	10
Washington	8.3	230	223	462	385	625	2,026	3,036	3,498	9
Hamilton	1.6	121	102	224	681	560	1,603	2,844	3,069	6
Los Angeles	8.8	319	226	554	555	643	1,554	2,753	3,307	7
Philadelphia	9.2	333	253	594	500	346	1,889	2,734	3,328	8
Ottawa	1.2	117	83	201	710	307	1,688	2,705	2,906	5
Quebec	0.7	84	64	148	785	260	1,591	2,636	2,784	4
Toronto	2.0	147	109	257	388	306	1,355	2,049	2,306	1
New York	5.0	232	203	440	317	250	1,408	1,976	2,416	3
Boston	2.7	254	119	122	466	283	1,481	2,230	2,352	2
British Columbia	2.3	198	109	308	1,166	818	3,730	5,714	6,023	n/a
Canada	2.0	166	89	257	804	496	2,040	3,340	3,596	n/a
US	5.6	291	141	437	727	417	2,286	3,430	3,867	n/a

Sources: Statistics Canada; US Federal Bureau of Investigation; Maire Gannon, Crime Comparisons Between Canada and The United States, Juristat, Vol. 21, no. 11, Statistics Canada cat. 85-002-XPE. Notes: [1] 2002 rate for motor vehicle theft.

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